

Curriculum vitae

Personal information

Name/titles Dr. Alain Amstutz, MD MSc
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Education / Work

03/2017 – today **PhD stud. Clinical Research (funded by MD-PhD program SNSF/SAMW)**
Swiss TPH (Clinical Research Unit) & University Hospital Basel (Department of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology), University of Basel:
Supporting Lesotho on the way towards the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets: Operational and clinical research addressing HIV/AIDS care in resource-limited settings
Supervision: Prof. Dr. Niklaus Labhardt & Prof. Dr. Manuel Battegay

08/2017 **Doctoral thesis MD**
University of Basel, Switzerland, Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Matthias Briel
[Amstutz A, Schandelmaier S, Frei R, et al. Discontinuation and non-publication of randomised clinical trials supported by the main public funding body in Switzerland: a retrospective cohort study. *BMJ Open* 2017;7:e016216.](#)

03/2016 – 02/2017 **Resident physician, Internal Medicine (100%)**
SRRWS Hospital Grabs, Switzerland

09/2015 – 02/2016 **Research assistant (part time)**
Institute for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Basel, Switzerland

03/2015 – 02/2016 **Assistant physician, Travel Medicine (part time)**
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (SwissTPH), Basel, Switzerland

09/2015 **State examination, MSc Clinical Medicine**
University of Basel, Switzerland

09/2009 – 09/2015 **Medical School, Bachelor and Master of Clinical Medicine**
University of Basel, Switzerland & University of Bordeaux, France
Master's thesis: Discontinuation of randomized controlled trials (DISCO study, v.i.)

08/2002 – 06/2008 **Secondary school, A-Levels (grade 5,5/6)**
Gymnasium Friedberg, Gossau SG, Switzerland
- "Pallotti Award 2007" for extraordinary commitment
- Thesis: „Zitronensaft – ein Lebensretter? Effizienzsteigerung von SODIS durch Zitronensaftzugabe“ (grade 6/6), cooperation with EAWAG & SCNAT

Grants / Awards / Prizes

12/2020 **TRANSFORM grant (CHF 5,6 Mio), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC/DEZA):** Tackling the non-communicable chronic disease epidemic in Southern Africa: A multi-disciplinary initiative to validate an eHealth-supported community-based care model delivered by lay health providers Community-based chronic disease care Lesotho (ComBaCaL) - 7F-10345.01.01. **Role: Co-PI & Steering Committee Member.** <https://www.swisstph.ch/de/projects/project-detail/project/community-based-chronic-disease-care-lesotho-a-5-year-implementation-research-programme-to-tackle-n/>

12/2020 **BRCCH-EDCTP Collaboration Initiative 2020 grant (CHF 250'000), BRCCH and EDCTP:** Improving access to SARS-CoV-2 screening and testing through community-based COVID-19 case-finding and the use of digital solutions in Lesotho and Zambia. **Role: Co-PI**

11/2020 **Janggen-Pöhn Foundation grant (CHF 40'000):** Lesotho auf dem Weg zu den UNAIDS 90-90-90-Zielen: Operative und klinische Forschung zur Eindämmung von HIV/AIDS in ressourcenarmen Regionen. **Role: PI**

09/2019 **The alternative HEMMI prize 2019 (CHF 10'000):** Das GET ON Forschungsprojekt: Dezentralisierung von HIV-Diagnostik und -Behandlung im südlichen Afrika – zwei miteinander verknüpfte cluster-randomisierte klinische Studien im ländlichen Lesotho

04/2018 **CIPHER grant 2018, International AIDS Society (USD 150'000):** GET ON IT (GETting towards Ninety In Teens) A two-part research project with one cluster-randomized controlled trial assessing targeted interventions to reach the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets among HIV-positive adolescents and young adults in rural Lesotho, Southern Africa. **Role: PI**

07/2017 **MD-PhD grant 2017, SNSF/SAMW (CHF 180'000):** Supporting Lesotho on the way towards the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets: Operational and clinical research addressing HIV/AIDS care in resource-limited settings. **Role: PI**

07/2017 **AlumniMedizin Basel award (CHF 20'000)**

05/2017 **Janggen-Pöhn Foundation grant (CHF 39'500):** Lesotho auf dem Weg zu den UNAIDS 90-90-90-Zielen: Operative und klinische Forschung zur Eindämmung von HIV/AIDS in ressourcenarmen Regionen. **Role: PI**

01/2017 **Research poster prize; Day of Clinical Research 2017, University Hospital Basel:** Publication and Discontinuation of Randomized Clinical Trials supported by the SNSF

Unsalariated work

02/2021 – today	CIPHER grant, International AIDS Society Grant reviewer
09/2020 – today	BMC Trials Associate Editor
03/2013 – 02/2015	UAEM, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines - Founding member of UAEM Switzerland in 2013 and member of the European Coordinating Committee 2013-2014 (www.uaem-europe.org) - Chair of the UAEM European Conference 2014 in Basel with more than 200 participants from all over Europe (www.uaemeuropeconference2014basel.wordpress.com)
02/2012 – 02/2016	SMEPP, Swiss Medical Exchange Project for the Philippines Founding member of a student exchange project to support the public hospital and the City Health Office in San Carlos City, Philippines
05/2007 – 05/2015	Red Cross Youth St. Gallen, Switzerland Founding member of the Red Cross Youth St. Gallen in 2007 and project leader
08/2013 – 09/2013	Project work in Ndem, Senegal 2 months assistance of medical projects for the NGO "Ndem" (www.ndem.info)
09/2009 – 06/2012	Samaritan Association Sissach, Switzerland
07/2011	Development work in San Carlos City, Philippines

Oral presentations / Talks

09/2019	Oral presentation and Chair of Session at the European Conference of Tropical Medicine and International Health 2019, Liverpool, GB: HIV/AIDS-related knowledge and stigma among village health workers in rural Lesotho, Southern Africa: Analysis of data from GET ON research project
09/2019	Oral presentation at the Global Health Session of the Joint Annual Meeting 2019 of SGI, SGInf, SGSH, SGTP, SGTRM, Lausanne, CH: Tackling the challenges of decentralized HIV testing and care in Southern Africa- two interlinked cluster-randomized trials in rural Lesotho
09/2017	Oral presentation at the Global Evidence Summit 2017, Cape Town, South Africa: Funding Characteristics of Randomized Clinical Trials supported by the SNSF
03/2017	Oral presentation at the conference of the German network of Evidence-based Medicine 2017, Hamburg, Germany: Discontinuation and Non-Publication of Randomized Clinical Trials supported by the SNSF
02/2016	Workshop moderation on behalf of UAEM at SwiTT (Swiss Technology Transfer Association) Conference 2016, Interlaken, Switzerland: Social Responsible Licensing in academic technology transfer
10/2015	Panel moderation on behalf of UAEM at the Cochrane Colloquium 2015, Vienna, Austria: Research funding and global health burden: a tragic mismatch

Languages

German	mother tongue
English	fluent in speech and writing
French	fluent in speech and writing (1 year studies/work in France)
Italian	fluent in speech and writing (half year work in the Ticino)
Sesotho	basic knowledge

Peer-reviewed publications: First- and last-authorship

- 1) [Amstutz A*](#), Matsela L*, Lejone TI, et al. Reaching absent and refusing individuals during home-based HIV testing through self-testing – at what cost? *Frontiers in Medicine* 2021 (in press)
- 2) [Amstutz A](#), Lejone TI, Khesa L, et al. Home-based oral self-testing for absent and declining individuals during a door-to-door HIV testing campaign in rural Lesotho (HOSENG): a cluster randomised clinical trial. *The Lancet HIV* 2020; 0. DOI:10.1016/S2352-3018(20)30233-2.
- 3) [Amstutz A](#), Nsakala BL, Vanobberghen F, et al. Switch to second-line versus continued first-line antiretroviral therapy for patients with low-level HIV-1 viremia: An open-label randomized controlled trial in Lesotho. *PLoS Med* 2020; 17: e1003325.
- 4) [Amstutz A](#), Kopo M, Lejone TI, et al. "If it is left, it becomes easy for me to get tested": Use of oral self-tests and community health workers to maximize the potential of home-based HIV testing among adolescents in Lesotho. *J Int AIDS Soc* 2020; 23: e25563.
- 5) [Amstutz A](#), Nsakala BL, Cheleboi M, et al. Low rates of active hepatitis B and C infections among adults and children living with HIV and taking antiretroviral therapy: a multicenter screening study in Lesotho. *J Med Virol* 2020. DOI:10.1002/jmv.25970.
- 6) Lejone TI, Kopo M, Bachmann N, Brown JA, Glass TR, Muhairwe J, Matsela T, Scherrer R, Chere L, Namane T, Labhardt ND, [Amstutz A](#). PEBRA trial – effect of a peer-educator coordinated preference-based ART service delivery model on viral suppression among adolescents and young adults living with HIV: protocol of a cluster-randomized clinical trial in rural Lesotho. *BMC Public Health* 2020; 20: 425.
- 7) [Amstutz A*](#), Brown JA*, Ringera I, et al. Engagement in care, viral suppression, drug resistance and reasons for non-engagement after home-based same-day ART initiation in Lesotho: a two-year follow-up of the CASCADE trial. *Clin Infect Dis* 2019 DOI:10.1093/cid/ciz1126.
- 8) [Amstutz A](#), Lejone TI, Khesa L, et al. VIBRA trial – Effect of village-based refill of ART following home-based same-day ART initiation vs clinic-based ART refill on viral suppression among individuals living with HIV: protocol of a cluster-randomized clinical trial in rural Lesotho. *Trials* 2019; 20: 522.
- 9) [Amstutz A](#), Lejone TI, Khesa L, et al. The HOSENG trial – Effect of the provision of oral self-testing for absent and refusing individuals during a door-to-door HIV-testing campaign on testing coverage: protocol of a cluster-randomized clinical trial in rural Lesotho. *Trials* 2019; 20:496
- 10) [Amstutz A](#), Nsakala BL, Vanobberghen F, et al. SESOTHO trial ("Switch Either near Suppression Or THOUSand") - switch to second-line versus WHO-guided standard of care for unsuppressed patients on first-line ART with viremia below 1000 copies/mL: protocol of a multicenter, parallel-group, open-label, randomized clinical trial in Lesotho, Southern Africa. *BMC Infect Dis*. 2018;18(1):76.
- 11) [Amstutz A](#), Schandelmaier S, Frei R, et al. Funding characteristics of randomised clinical trials supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation: a retrospective cohort study. *Swiss Med Wkly*. 2018;148:w14587.

- 12) [Amstutz A](#), Schandelmaier S, Frei R, et al. Discontinuation and non-publication of randomised clinical trials supported by the main public funding body in Switzerland: a retrospective cohort study. *BMJ Open* 2017;7:e016216.

Peer-reviewed publications: Co-authorship

- 1) Brown JA, [Amstutz A](#), Nsakala BL, et al. Extensive drug resistance during low-level HIV viraemia while taking NNRTI-based ART supports lowering the viral load threshold for regimen switch in resource-limited settings: a pre-planned analysis from the SESOTHO trial. *J Antimicrob Chemother* (2021)
- 2) Mapesi H, Gupta R, Wilson HI, Lukau B, [Amstutz A](#), et al. The coArTHA trial—identifying the most effective treatment strategies to control arterial hypertension in sub-Saharan Africa: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials* (2021)
- 3) Brown JA, Ringera I, Luoga E, ...[Amstutz A](#), et al. Genotype-Informed Versus Empiric Management Of VirEmia (GIVE MOVE): study protocol of an open-label randomised clinical trial in children and adolescents living with HIV in Lesotho and Tanzania. *BMC Infect Dis* 2020, 773 (2020)
- 4) Gryaznov D, Odutayo A, von Niederhäusern B, ...[Amstutz A](#), et al. Rationale and design of repeated cross-sectional studies to evaluate the reporting quality of trial protocols: the Adherence to SPIrit REcommendations (ASPIRE) study and associated projects. *Trials*. 2020; 21:896.
- 5) Labhardt ND, Ringera I, Lejone TI, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Effect and cost of two successive home visits to increase HIV testing coverage: a prospective study in Lesotho, Southern Africa. *BMC Public Health* 2019, 1441 (2019)
- 6) Glass TR, Motaboli L, Nsakala B, Lerotholi M, Vanobberghen F, [Amstutz A](#), et al. The viral load monitoring cascade in a resource-limited setting: A prospective multicentre cohort study after introduction of routine viral load monitoring in rural Lesotho. *PLOS ONE* 2019; 14: e0220337.
- 7) Speich B, Schur N, Gryaznov D, von Niederhäusern B, Hemkens LG, Schandelmaier S, [Amstutz A](#), et al.; a collaboration of the MARTA (MAking Randomized Trials Affordable) and ASPIRE (Adherence to Standard Protocol Items: REcommendations for interventional trials) Study Groups. Resource use, costs, and approval times for planning and preparing a randomized clinical trial before and after the implementation of the new Swiss human research legislation. *PLOS ONE*. 2019 Jan 11;14(1):e0210669.
- 8) Labhardt ND, Ringera I, Lejone TI, Klimkait T, Muhairwe J, [Amstutz A](#), Glass TR. Effect of Offering Same-Day ART vs Usual Health Facility Referral During Home-Based HIV Testing on Linkage to Care and Viral Suppression Among Adults With HIV in Lesotho: The CASCADE Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA*. 2018;319(11):1103–1112.
- 9) Schandelmaier S, Tomonaga Y, Bassler D, Meerpohl J, von Elm E, You JJ, Bluemle A, Lamontagne F, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Premature Discontinuation of Pediatric Randomized Controlled Trials: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *J Pediatr*. 2017
- 10) Stegert M, Kasenda B, von Elm E, You JJ, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), Bengough T, Briel M; DISCO study group. An analysis of protocols and publications suggested that most discontinuations of clinical trials were not based on preplanned interim analyses or stopping rules. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2016;69:152-160
- 11) Schandelmaier S, von Elm E, You JJ, Bluemle A, Tomonaga Y, Lamontagne F, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Premature Discontinuation of Randomized Trials in Critical and Emergency Care: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *Crit Care Med*. 2016;44(1).
- 12) Kasenda B, von Elm E, You JJ, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Agreements between Industry and Academia on Publication Rights: A Retrospective Study of Protocols and Publications of Randomized Clinical Trials. *PLoS Med*. 2016 Jun 28;13(6):e1002046.
- 13) Blümle A, Schandelmaier S, Oeller P, [Amstutz A](#), et al.; DISCO study group. Premature Discontinuation of Prospective Clinical Studies Approved by a Research Ethics Committee – A Comparison of Randomised and Non-Randomised Studies. Rahman M, ed. *PLoS ONE*. 2016;11(10):e0165605.
- 14) Schandelmaier S, Conen K, von Elm E, You JJ, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto, [Amstutz A](#), et al.; DISCO study group. Planning and reporting of quality-of-life outcomes in cancer trials. *Ann Oncol*. 2015 Sep;26(9):1966-73.
- 15) Rosenthal R, Kasenda B, Dell-Kuster S, von Elm E, You J, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Completion and Publication Rates of Randomized Controlled Trials in Surgery: An Empirical Study. *Annals of Surgery* 1 (2014).
- 16) Kasenda B, Schandelmaier S, Sun X, von Elm E, You J, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Subgroup analyses in randomised controlled trials: cohort study on trial protocols and journal publications. *BMJ* 349, g4921–g4921 (2014).
- 17) Kasenda B, von Elm E, You J, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Prevalence, Characteristics, and Publication of Discontinued Randomized Trials. *JAMA*. 2014;311(10):1045-1052.
- 18) Kasenda B, von Elm EB, You J, Blümle A, Tomonaga Y, Saccilotto R, [Amstutz A](#), et al. Learning from Failure - Rationale and Design for a Study about Discontinuation of Randomized Trials (DISCO study). *BMC medical research methodology*. Aug 28 2012;12(1):131.

Non-scientific publications

- 03/2019 **SolidarMed Fokus, 19/1 03.2019: Zuhause statt im Gesundheitszentrum: HIV-Tests erreichen die Bergbevölkerung.**
<https://www.solidarmed.ch/publikationen>
- 12/2018 **Bulletin of the Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health, No 04 / Volume 57: HIV/AIDS Epidemic What is needed for the final sprint?**
https://www.nvtg.org/uploads/MTh-PDF/2018_MT_Towards-an-AIDS-free-generation.pdf
- 10/2016 **DKForum Nr 7, Ausgabe 3, 2016, Journal of the Department of Clinical Research, University of Basel: Schicksal von klinischen Nationalfondstudien» Über randomisierte klinische Studien, die vom Schweizerischen Nationalfonds gefördert, aber vorzeitig abgebrochen und nicht im Volltext publiziert wurden.**
<https://www.yumpu.com/de/document/view/56769018/dkforum-ausgabe7-onlineDaten>

Butha-Buthe, Lesotho
06.06.2021

