

**Press release**

Basel, 18 January 2018

**Roivant Sciences to join BaseLaunch Accelerator as Healthcare Partner**

***Roivant becomes the fifth healthcare partner of BaselArea.swiss accelerator program joining Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer and Roche.***

BaseLaunch today announced that the biopharmaceutical company Roivant Sciences will be the program's fifth healthcare partner. BaseLaunch provides promising startups with access to non-dilutive funding, industry access, expert knowledge and infrastructure, and integrates them into one of the most dynamic biotech and healthcare ecosystems in Europe. The program is initiated and operated by BaselArea.swiss.

In addition to Roivant, the BaseLaunch healthcare accelerator is backed by Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer, Roche and other public and private partners. Sascha Bucher, VP and Head of Global Transactions at Roivant and a senior business development and M&A professional with more than 20 years of experience, will join the BaseLaunch Selection Committee.

For Vivek Ramaswamy, Founder and CEO of Roivant, partnering with BaseLaunch underlines the company's commitment to Basel as a central hub for pharmaceutical innovation in Europe: "Joining the accelerator will allow us to support young and talented entrepreneurs developing promising ideas, and is representative of our desire to become an integral part of the broader life science ecosystem in Basel."

Alethia de León, Managing Director of BaseLaunch, welcomes Roivant as a Healthcare Partner of BaseLaunch: "We are very excited to have Roivant as a hands-on partner to support and help select promising healthcare startups. Their commitment to our accelerator here in Basel further adds to the strong commitment to this initiative from the leading and highly innovative corporate partners in the healthcare space."

"Having the world's leading healthcare companies onboard demonstrates the unique setting of the Basel region as a center for the life sciences," says Christof Klöpper, CEO of BaselArea.swiss.

In 2017, over 100 projects applied and 11 teams were accepted into BaseLaunch. During the first three months of the program, company founders worked closely with the BaseLaunch team and a network of seasoned professionals to solidify strategy, R&D plans and operations. The companies that were selected for the next phase will be announced shortly.

Applications for 2018 will open in late January. For more information, visit [www.baselaunch.ch](http://www.baselaunch.ch)

**BaseLaunch**

The mission of BaseLaunch is to support healthcare entrepreneurs and integrate them into one of the most dynamic biotech and pharma ecosystems in Europe. The entrepreneurial-centric healthcare accelerator program offers non-dilutive funding, industry access, expert knowledge and infrastructure. Over the course of 15 months, participating startups work with the BaseLaunch team and a network of seasoned professionals with the right knowledge and expertise to solidify strategy, R&D plans and operations. BaseLaunch enjoys the backing of leading industry players Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer, Roche and Roivant Sciences as well as other public and private partners such as KPMG and Vossius & Partner. Projects are reviewed by a selection committee with profound experience and knowledge in the area of healthcare and entrepreneurship, which includes the following members: Sascha Bucher, VP and Head of Global Transactions, Roivant Sciences; Dr. Fabian Buller, Director of New Ventures, Johnson & Johnson Innovation; Dr. Jakob Busch-Petersen, Intrapreneur, External Innovation, Therapeutic Modalities, Roche; Dr. Phillippe Dro, CEO, NeMoDevices and serial entrepreneur; Trudi Haemmerli, CEO and Director, PerioC Ltd, Managing Director, TruStep Consulting GmbH; Dr. Anja König, Global Head Novartis Venture Fund; Dr. Alex Mayweg, Venture Partner, Versant Ventures; and Dr. Nathalie ter Wengel MD, European Head of External Science and Innovation, Pfizer. BaseLaunch is initiated and operated by BaselArea.swiss.

[www.basellaunch.ch](http://www.basellaunch.ch)

**BaselArea.swiss**

BaselArea.swiss is the office for promoting innovation and inward investment for the northwest cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Jura. BaselArea.swiss currently employs 18 people and has an annual budget of 3.6 million francs, provided by the three cantons and by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The core function of BaselArea.swiss is to promote the strengths of northwest Switzerland as a center for business and to help both Swiss and foreign entrepreneurs and companies implement their innovation and business projects in the region. With its extensive information platform and regular innovation reports, BaselArea.swiss contributes to the sustainable positioning of the Basel region as a leading center for innovation and commerce.

[www.baselarea.swiss](http://www.baselarea.swiss)

**About Roivant Sciences**

Roivant is dedicated to transformative innovation in healthcare. Roivant focuses on realizing the full potential of promising biomedical research by developing and commercializing novel therapies across diverse therapeutic areas. Roivant partners with innovative biopharmaceutical companies and academic institutions to ensure that important medicines are rapidly developed and delivered to patients. Roivant advances its drug pipelines through wholly- or majority-owned subsidiary companies, including Axovant (neurology), Myovant (women's health and endocrine diseases), Dermavant (dermatology), Enzyvant (rare diseases), and Urovant (urology). Roivant also plans to launch new companies operating outside of traditional biopharmaceutical development. Roivant's long-range mission is to reduce the time and cost of developing and delivering new medicines for patients.

[www.roivant.com](http://www.roivant.com)

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