



Biomaterials

Adapting nature for mankind

Around 100 years ago, simple materials were used for human health and were essentially limited to natural substances such as gold for teeth and cotton for bandages. In today's complex and scientifically advanced world, biomaterials are varied in both origin and use. Biomaterials are used for manufacturing prostheses, implants, stents and drug delivery, as well as wound healing, plastic surgery, tissue engineering, ophthalmology, and neurology. They can be natural (e.g.

10% annually and could surpass \$10 billion in 2016 with hyaluronic acid viscosupplementation as the largest segment. Within the dental biomaterials market, Switzerland is driving growth with dental biomaterial products such as dental bone graft substitutes, dental membranes, and tissue regeneration materials.

Switzerland is the only country whose population has voted to approve the use of embryonic stem cells for research. The Swiss Stem Cells Network (SSCN), involving seven institutions across Switzerland, focuses on stem cells and regenerative medicine. While some teams investigating animal research, others are carrying out applied research for human health. Stem cells are already used in cosmetology and indeed, biomaterials such as hyaluronic acid and collagen are also contributing to the increase of market share. The neat fit of highly qualified professionals, world class clinics and continuing research makes the area of Western Switzerland particularly attractive.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has just granted nearly 18 million francs over a four year period to the new "MARVEL" project, led by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), to develop innovative materials, including in the life sciences. While the institutions in the region span fundamental and applied research, many companies have developed from high precision technology knowhow combined with scientific ability, providing a combination unique to the BioAlps region. For example, Dentsply Maillefer, a dental supply company, was founded by a watchmaker. It is also this combination that has brought many multinational companies to the region, including Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic and Stryker.

THE GLOBAL BIOMATERIALS MARKET IS ESTIMATED TO REACH \$88.4 BILLION BY 2017. WITHIN THE DENTAL BIOMATERIAL MARKET, SWITZERLAND IS DRIVING GROWTH WITH DENTAL BIOMATERIAL PRODUCT.

collagen, cellulose) or synthetic (e.g. metallic, alloy, ceramic, plastic). Biomaterials encompasses a broad band of disciplines in science such as medicine, biology, chemistry, tissue engineering and materials science. Biomaterials must be compatible with the body. Like other health products, they are subject to extensive requirements from the regulatory authorities before being authorised to enter the market.

The global biomaterials market is estimated to reach \$88.4 billion by 2017 from \$44.0 billion in 2012, growing at a CAGR of 15%. Sales of orthopaedic biomaterials are expected to grow about



REGENHU - THE BIOSYSTEM ARCHITECT FOR 3D BIO-PRINTING

Based in the canton of Fribourg and led by Marc Thurner, cutting edge company RegenHU resulted from the joint venture between Delta Robotics Ltd and the CPA Group Ltd. A pioneer in its field, regenHU acts as a biosystem architect exploiting novel bio-manufacturing solutions. It creates biologically relevant tissue models using 3-D tissue engineering that mimics natural morphologic environments of cellular components and organotypic tissue models that demonstrate optimal biological relevance. regenHU benefits from exclusive patented technologies resulting from many years of research within local and international universities and partners. Its first activity, in the dental field, resulted in spin-off company Vivos Dental, whose first 3-D bone graft should be CE marked in 2014. Backed by the CPA Group, RegenHU benefits from the knowhow within the group as well as the close proximity of universities, research labs and business opportunities within the BioAlps cluster. Building on research in Bienne, Geneva and Fribourg, regenHU delivers products worldwide.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Biomaterials require cross-cutting research and knowhow, which are available in the many disciplines present in Western Switzerland. Using knowledge from technology, material engineering, high precision manufacturing, biology and chemistry, the region's research institutions, teaching and research hospitals, and technology centres provide an environment conducive to research and development, with a

sharp focus on innovations to bring to world markets.

The lists below are non exhaustive and showcase some examples of the work being done in the region.

Find more information in our extensive database: bioalps.org/community/ and, for the six alpine regions, alpslifescienceresearch.com

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AT THE FOREFRONT OF BIOMATERIALS IN WESTERN SWITZERLAND

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne EPFL	Laboratory of Powder Technology (LTP)	Bone substitution materials, templates for bone tissue engineering, and carriers for sustained drug delivery systems	ltp.epfl.ch/page-35589.html
	Institute of Bioengineering (IBI)	Micro and nanobioengineering, biomechanics, mechanobiology, prosthetics/neuroengineering, molecular, cell and tissue engineering	bioengineering.epfl.ch
	Laboratory for Regenerative Medicine & Pharmacobiology (LMRP)	Biomaterials for regenerative medicine and tissue engineering	lrmr.epfl.ch
University of Bern UNIBE and University Hospital Bern (Inselspital)	ARTORG Center for biomedical engineering and Research	Artificial hearing research	artorg.unibe.ch
Haute Ecole d'Ingénierie du Valais HES-SO Valais	Institut Life Technologies (ITV)	Biopolymers from Syngas fermentation	http://itv.hevs.ch/valais/biopolymers-from-syngas-fermentation.html
University of Geneva UNIGE and University Hospital Geneva HUG	Faculty of Medicine Department Dental Medicine	Stem cells and regenerative medicine Wound healing, orthopaedic applications endoscopic bulking agents	sscn.unige.ch
	Department of Ophthalmology	Injectable optical implants	hug-ge.ch/ophtalmologie/groupe-therapie-genique-dmla-et-biomateriaux
University of Lausanne UNIL	Unit of Regenerative therapy, Plastic Surgery	Burnt and wound treatment, cell therapy and tissues engineering	chuv.ch/cpr/cpr_home
Eye Hospital Jules-Gonin Lausanne	Unity of Gene Therapy and Stem Cell Biology	Optical stem cell and regeneration	eyeregeneration.ch
School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg	Institute of Applied Research in Plasturgy (iRAP)	Bio polymers	eia-fr.ch

SAMPLING LIST OF LARGE AND SMALL BIOMATERIALS COMPANIES IN THE BIOALPS CLUSTER

BIOMATERIALS PROVIDERS		
APTISSEN	Ophthalmology and orthopaedics - hyaluronic acid	aptissen.com
AXIS BIODENTAL	Aesthetic and metal-free dental implantology solutions	camlog.com
EXABONE	Innovative synthetic bone graft substitutes	exabone.com
EXCELLNESS BIOTECH	Cell culture imitating the viscoelastic properties of tissues in the human body	excellness.com
HERAEUS	Bone cement and biomaterials for orthopaedic and trauma surgery	heraeus-medical.com
LAMINERIES MATTHEY	Endoscopic titanium and cobalt alloys	matthey.ch
P B & B	Cosmetics and aesthetic molecular volumizing	pbbtech.ch
QGEL	Synthetic extracellular matrix (ECM) for 3D cell culture	qgelbio.com
REGEN LAB	Autologous Platelet Rich Plasma for orthopaedic and aesthetics applications	regenlab.com
TRB CHEMEDICA	Rheumatology and ophthalmology - hyaluronic acid	trbchemedica.com

BIOMATERIALS USERS AND SERVICES		
ANTEIS (MERZ PHARMA)	Wrinkle-filling gels, resorbable implants and cutaneous rehydration gels	anteis.com
CENDRES + METAUX	Micromechanical, customer-specific (OEM) components from high-quality materials	cmsa.ch
DE PUY SYNTHES	Joint reconstruction and trauma	depuuy.com
DENTSPLY MAILLEFER	High precision dental endomaterials	dentsplymailefer.com
MEDTRONIC	Biosurfaces for engineering devices	medtronic.com
NANOBRIDGING MOLECULES	Patented surface treatment for medical metal implants	nbmolecules.com
REGENHU	3D bio-printing and biomaterial for therapeutics & biosurgery	regenhu.com
STRAUMANN VILLERET	Implant, restorative and regenerative dentistry	straumann.com
STRYKER	Reconstructive, trauma and spinal products for surgical treatment	stryker.com
TECHMA CONSULT	Alloys, surface treatment, coating	techma-consult.com

The fact sheet provides a view of the key players in the sector at any given time; it is not comprehensive and is subject to regular updates. This current edition was updated in Autumn 2019.