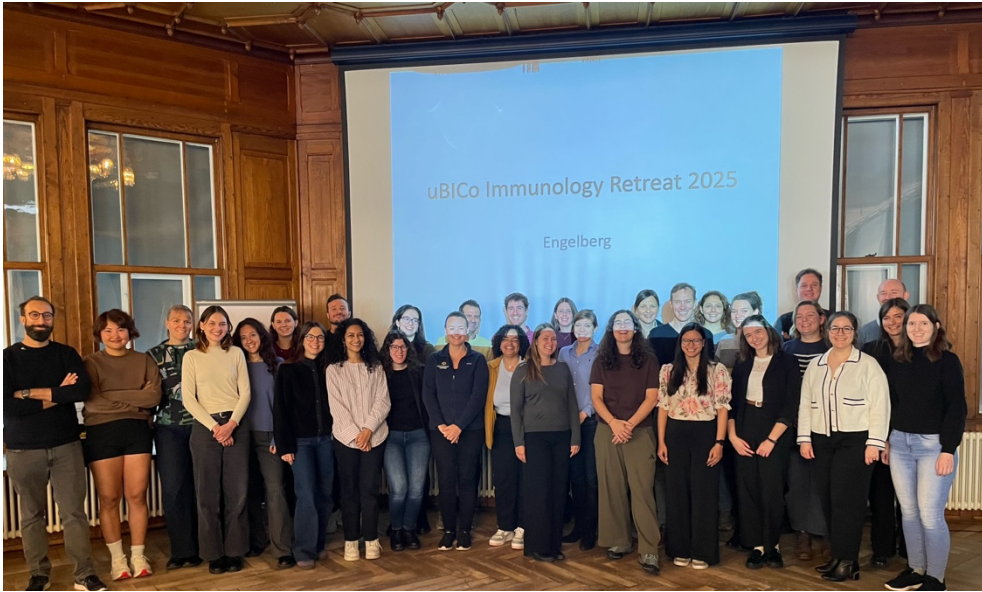


uBICo Retreat in Engelberg – November 3–4, 2025

On November 3rd and 4th, members of uBICo from the Department of Biomedicine (DBM) and the Biozentrum convened in the scenic mountain town of Engelberg for the annual uBICo retreat. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks and crisp alpine air, participants gathered to reflect on progress, strengthen collaborations, and shape the scientific and strategic direction of the consortium for the coming years.



The retreat brought together researchers across all levels- from trainees to principal investigators -creating a dynamic and open environment for exchange. The scientific program featured 16 trainee presentations, covering an impressive range of topics that highlight uBICo's interdisciplinary approach to immunology. Talks spanned key areas including *Immunometabolism & Inflammation*, *Cancer Immunology*, *Systems Immunology*, and *Allergy & Host Defense*, showcasing the breadth of expertise and innovation within the network.

Complementing these talks, participants took part in a poster walk on the first day, during which each member presented their research and received constructive feedback from colleagues. The format encouraged informal discussion, networking, and cross-fertilisation of ideas - a reflection of uBICo's commitment to collaborative science and mentorship.

A particularly engaging moment of the retreat was an evening discussion between PIs and trainees, which focused on the future of biomedical research and the evolving landscape of immunology. Topics included the potential of artificial intelligence in medicine, the next frontiers in immunological research, and the importance of integrating insights from different disciplines. The open dialogue provided valuable perspectives on how emerging technologies and interdisciplinary approaches can accelerate discovery and translation, while also strengthening connections across the uBICo community.

This year's retreat also marked the first attendance of new group leaders, *Jean Christophe Beltra* and *Mariana Borsa*, who were warmly welcomed by the community. Their participation brought fresh perspectives and added momentum to ongoing and future collaborative efforts.

Adding a fun and light-hearted element to the scientific program, participants enjoyed an Immunology-focused quiz, which tested their knowledge in a friendly and competitive setting. Congratulations to the winning team - *Anna Salamero Boix*, *Ira Pillai*, *Jean Pieters*, and *Yagmur Farsakoglu* - the second-place team - *Francesca*

Baixauli, Elena Ratti, Vanshika Rastogi, and Claire Depew - and the third-place team -*Javier Pareja, Irene Fusi, Joelle de Vaan, and Franziska Bosch* - for their enthusiastic participation and impressive performances.

Congratulations to the winning teams!



The uBICo community extends its sincere thanks to the **session chairs** — *Javier Pareja, Anna Salamero Boix & Jean de Lima, Natalia Rodrigues Mantuano & Francesc Baixauli, and Alessandro Vacchini & Maryam Akramisomeabozorg* - for their outstanding moderation, thoughtful discussion leadership, and contributions throughout the scientific sessions. Their efforts ensured an engaging and well-structured program that encouraged participation and exchange at every level. Also, many thanks to **Paula Cullen**, who was instrumental in putting this retreat together!

As the retreat came to a close, participants left Engelberg with renewed energy, new ideas, and a deepened sense of community. The combination of inspiring scientific discussions, strategic planning, and informal interactions made the 2025 uBICo retreat a memorable and productive milestone in the consortium's journey.

Looking ahead, we hope to carry this engaging and collaborative atmosphere into 2026. All members are warmly encouraged to continue participating in the **Monday ImmunoMeetings**, which remain an essential platform for sharing ideas and fostering connections across the immunology community. Stay tuned for next year's "Distinguished Speakers in Immunology" series, which promises another exciting lineup of leading researchers from around the world.

Finally, students interested in deepening their engagement with immunology are invited to join the **ImmunoPhD Club**, led by *Jean de Lima, Vanshika Rastogi, Irene Fusi, Mara Esposito, and Maike Erber* — a vibrant initiative dedicated to connecting and supporting the next generation of immunologists at Basel. For more information or to get involved, please contact immunophd-dbm@unibas.ch.

If you want to be added to the uBICo website or keep up to date on all things Immunology, please reach out to ubico@unibas.ch and keep an eye on our website (currently being updated), where you can feature news, job adverts, new papers and seminars <https://ubico.unibas.ch/en/>.

Best Wishes on behalf of everyone from the Steering Committee,

Karen Dixon, Daniela Finke, Matthias Mehling, Alfred Zippelius, Jan Neiss, Jean Pieters and Anne-Katrin Pröbstel.