



Susan M. Gasser

Independent Director

Member of the Board since 1st January 2021

Member of the Scientific Committee

Date of birth: 1955

Nationality: Swiss

Gender: Female

End of term: 2025

Introduction & Professional experience

From 2004 to 2019, Susan M. Gasser was the Director of the Friedrich Miescher Institute (FMI) for Biomedical Research, in Basel, Switzerland, supported by the Novartis Research Foundation. There she continued as an FMI research group leader until the end of 2020. On February 1, 2021, she became the Director of the ISREC Foundation, based in Lausanne, which is dedicated to translational cancer research. She served on the Board of Directors of the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Foundation in La Jolla, California, is member of the Board of Directors of the ETH Domain in Switzerland and served on the Nestlé Nutrition Council from 2008 – 2018. She is currently chairing the Strategic Committee of the Helmholtz Institutes of Health Sciences, Germany, and serves on the European Molecular Biology Council and the Swiss Science Council, advising the Department of Research, Education and Innovation in Switzerland.

Susan Gasser is a molecular biologist whose research combined genetics, in vivo imaging and multi-omic analyses to probe the role of chromatin and nuclear organization in cell fate decisions and genome stability. As Director of the FMI and ISREC Foundation she has overseen biomedical research in neurobiology, organoid biology, epigenetics and precision oncology. She held professorships at the University of Geneva, the University of Basel and currently at the University of Lausanne. She was elected to the US Academy of Sciences, l'Académie de France, EMBO, the German Academy of Science and the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. Among other awards she received the INSERM International Prize, the FEBS | EMBO Women in Science Award, the Weizmann Institute Women in Science award, and honorary doctorates from Universities of Lausanne, Fribourg, Geneva and the Charles University of Prague.



Education

Prof. Susan Gasser pursued her studies at the University of Chicago with an Honors thesis in Biophysics and completed her PhD at the University of Basel in Biochemistry in 1982. She studied chromatin and chromosome organization in health and disease as a Group leader at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC) in Lausanne, as professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Geneva, and at the FMI in Basel.

Main external appointments

Director of the ISREC Foundation, Lausanne, Switzerland	since 2021
Member, European Molecular Biology Council, Heidelberg, Germany	since 2022
Member, Gairdner Prize Award committee, Toronto, Canada	2015-2022
Member, Crick Institute Review and Scientific Advisory Board, London, UK	since 2016
Member, Swiss Wissenschaftsrat (Swiss Science Council, SSC), Bern	since 2016
Member, ETH Board (Governing Board of the ETH Domain), Switzerland	since 2018
Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Inst. of Quantitative Biology, U. of Tokyo, Japan	since 2018
Chair, Strategic Board of the Helmholtz Society Health Program, Germany	2019-2027
Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Biozentrum, University of Basel, Switzerland	since 2020
Board of Trustees, IST, Austria	2020-2022
Chair, International Review Board for ONCODE Network, NL	since 2020
Member, Scientific Advisory Board of VIB, Belgium	since 2021
Member, Scientific Advisory Board, CABIMER, Sevilla, Spain	since 2022
Member, International Advisory Board of IIMCB, Warsaw, Poland	since 2022
Scientific advisor, VI Partners AG*, Switzerland	since 2021
Chair, Policy Committee of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS)	since 2022

