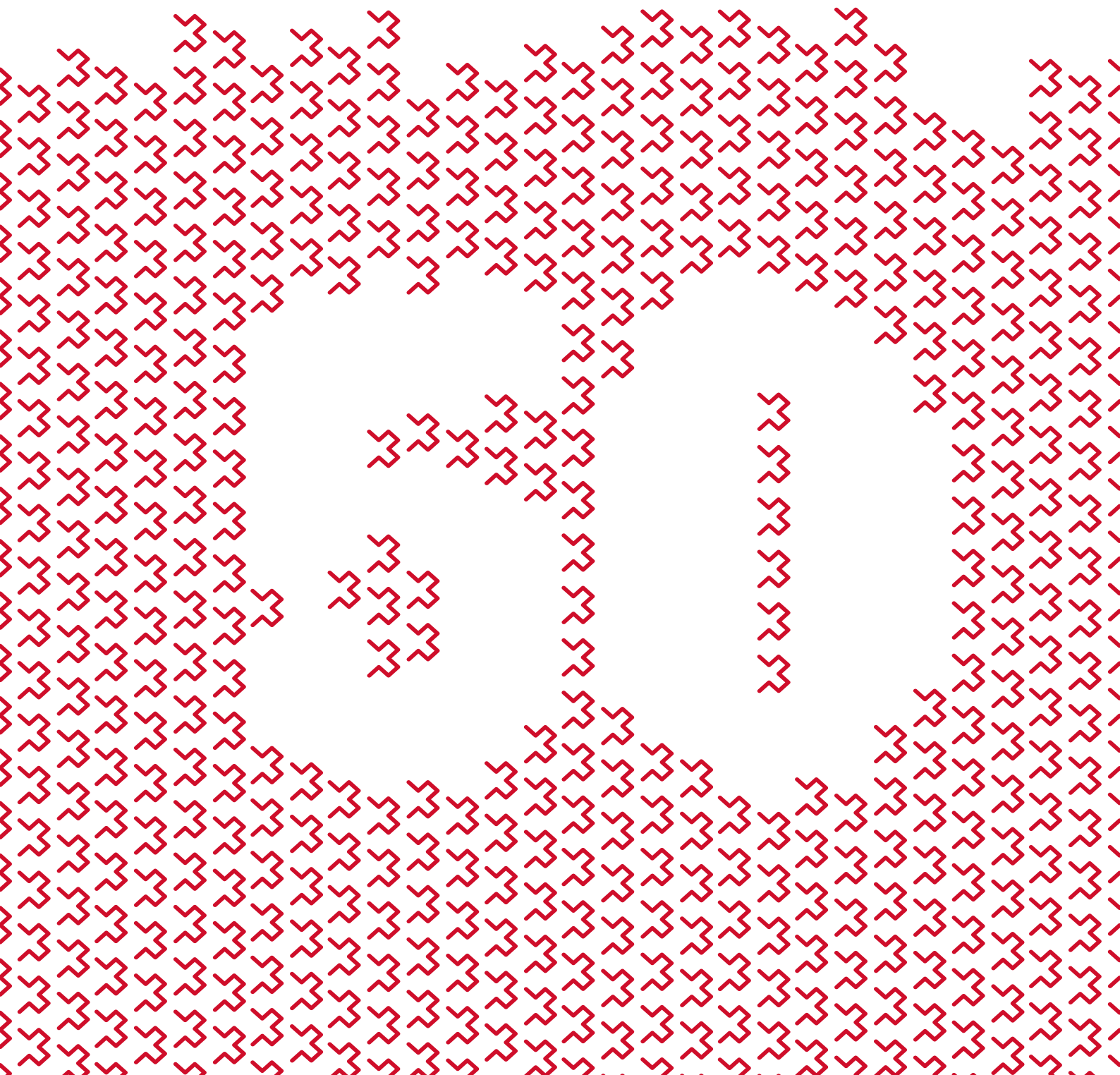




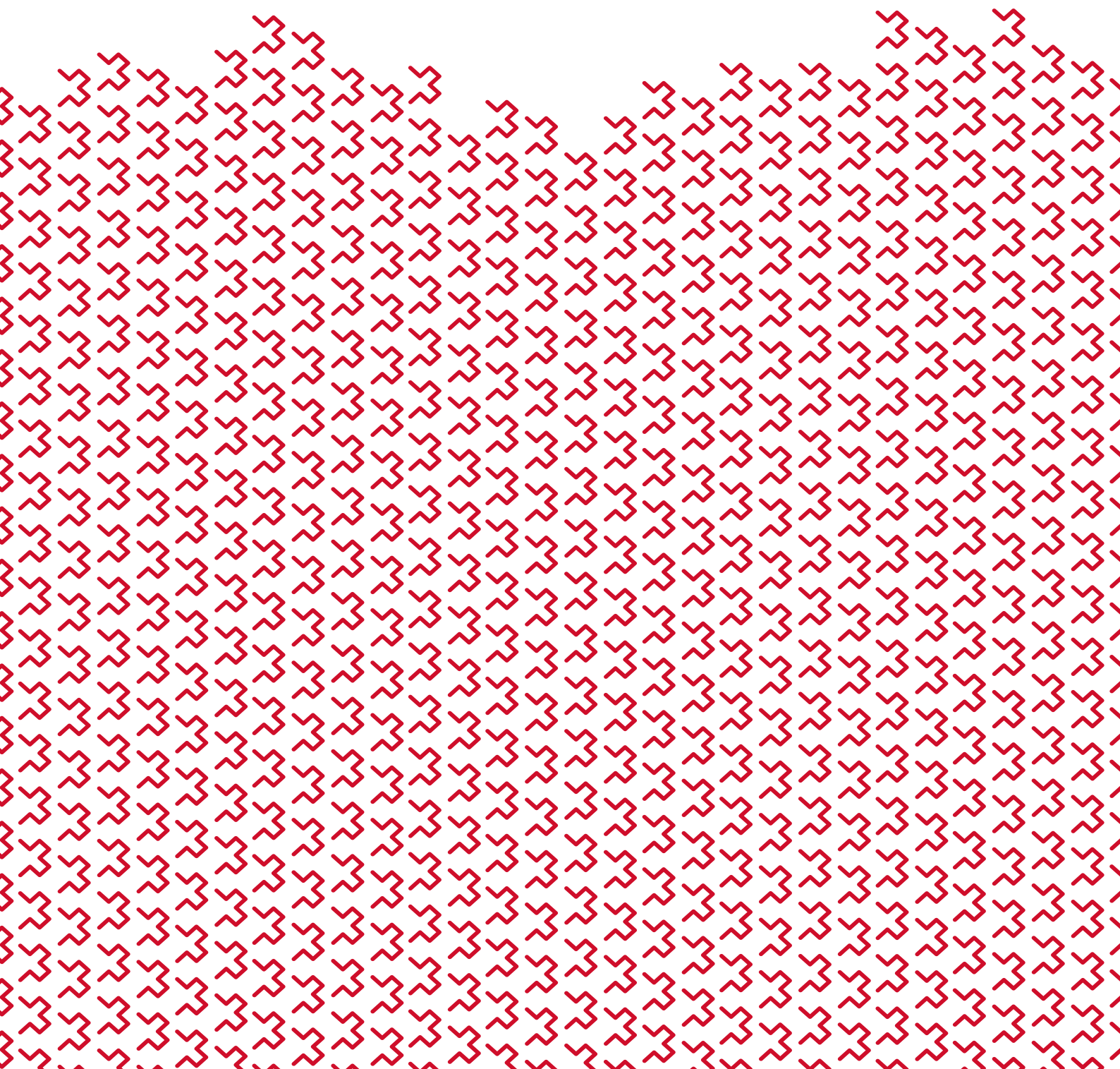
Annual report 2015



Tox Info Suisse is the proper address for private individuals, professionals, organisations and companies for all questions regarding poisoning.

Summary of the most important services:

- Emergency hotline 145
- Information and advice concerning poisoning for private individuals and medical professionals
- Consultations concerning poisons (theoretical enquiries, tel. 044 251 66 66)
- Documentation and treatment schemes
- Consultations and services for companies
- Risk assessment and expert opinion
- Poisoning prevention and toxicovigilance of pharmaceuticals
- Postgraduate education for specialist physicians in clinical pharmacology and toxicology
- Research and education



Contents

Anniversary	4
Foreword of the Federal Council	4
Tox Info Suisse – 50 years' clinical toxicology service	5
Activities 2015	6
Toxicological expertise much in demand	
Highlights	7
Latest news on drug and substance abuse	
Emergency and information service	8
Emergency hotline 145: number of enquiries rising	
General overview of all enquiries	8
Human poisoning	10
Animal poisoning	14
Finances	16
Annual financial statement well balanced	
Donations	18
Thanks to all donors!	
Outlook	19
Quality and funding need to be secured	
Supporting bodies and partners	20
The work of Tox Info Suisse enjoys broad support	
Foundation Council, management, staff	21
Individuals committed to Tox Info Suisse	
Publications	22
Scientific publications	
Impressum	23

Editorial



Dear reader,

It is with joy and pride that in 2016 we celebrate 50 years of existence of a foundation whose services are very much in demand throughout Switzerland. The emergency hotline 145 for enquiries about poisoning has even been honoured with a special stamp by the Swiss Post this year.

What started with a great deal of pioneering spirit, enthusiasm and 15 000 index cards about poisoning in 1966 presents itself today as a professional organisation with a networked software database providing over 1.5 million data records to assist our medical staff to search for information quickly.

Providing toxicology consultation for the population and professionals, around the clock, seven days a week, requires a competent team and a strong network of supporting bodies. Tox Info Suisse is lucky enough to have both.

Although we are well aware that the demands will not be lower or the responsibilities any less, we are nevertheless confident about the future and hope that Tox Info Suisse will also continue to provide valuable services to the population for the next 50 years!

I thank all supporting bodies, contractual partners, sponsors and donors for their long-standing support and solidarity and I hope that they will offer Tox Info Suisse financial support also in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Andereg-Wirth'.

Elisabeth Andereg-Wirth
President of the Foundation Council of
Tox Info Suisse

Foreword of the Federal Council



If Tox Info Suisse did not exist, it would have to be created as nothing is more important than quickly receiving competent assistance and consultation from medical experts in cases of poisoning. Accidents with chemicals happen quickly, and half of these cases involve children. It is one of our main responsibilities to protect them from the dangers of chemicals.

Each year the emergency and information service of Tox Info Suisse receives nearly 40 000 calls - around the clock, seven days a week. Mostly, people call in an emergency situation, but physicians also contact Tox Info Suisse when in need of expert information to be able to treat their patients optimally. Tox Info Suisse actively protects the health of hundreds of citizens daily.

In the last 50 years Tox Info Suisse has become an institution playing an invaluable role in our health system. Through the cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zurich, Tox Info Suisse can steadily increase the quality of its toxicology consultation and ensure that treatment of poisoning remains an important element in the continuing education of physicians.

As a private foundation, Tox Info Suisse is financed by supporting bodies from the private sector, from public funds, especially from the Federal Office of Public Health, from the cantons, from swissmedic as well as from private donors. The foundation is a prime example of a pragmatic and successful cooperation between the public sector and private institutions as well as private organisations.

Congratulations to Tox Info Suisse on 50 years of existence.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alain Berset".

Alain Berset
Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs

Tox Info Suisse – 50 years' clinical toxicology service

A lack of reliable information combined with a great need for advice about the risk of poisoning led to the creation of the Swiss Toxicological Information Centre in 1966, named Tox Info Suisse since 2015.



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All residents in Switzerland should know the emergency hotline 145! Not only should they have the number close at hand in case of poisoning, they should also keep in mind that this service, provided from a non-profit private foundation for all, deserves the financial support from all, too. This goal was primarily achieved through various reporting in all media, spread over the whole anniversary year. This was also made possible with the help of the Swiss Post who issued a special stamp to honour the anniversary of the Tox.

In the 1960s society became aware of the dangers of chemical substances. A greater need for information arose in light of the serious adverse drug reactions and poisonings. The population and professionals were appalled after hearing of the Contergan scandal. Physicians stood helpless in the face of poisonings with barbiturates and new pesticides. In addition, the supply of antidotes – and their correct use – was largely unclear. Medical professionals created the first poisons centres in many countries at the end of the 1950s and beginning of the 1960s. Developing poisons centres became one of the WHO's primary objectives. As a result, it was only a matter of time until it also kindled the interest of the medical professionals in Switzerland.

Who were the founders?

Dr. Dr. Attilio Nisoli, a pharmacist from Winterthur, and Prof. Franz Borbély, a forensic expert from Zurich, set up the emergency and information service in 1965. They also convinced the Swiss Society of Pharmacists (SSP, now pharmaSuisse) to support the project under the name of 'Swiss Toxicological Information Centre of the Swiss Society of Pharmacists'. It soon became clear that institutional support was necessary. In 1966 the SSP created the foundation 'Swiss Toxicological Information Centre' in collaboration with SGCI Chemie Pharma Schweiz (now scienceindustries). Since then the medical staff of the Tox has been giving advice to the public and medical professionals in cases of emergency and providing information on toxic substances and poisonings.

What has changed since the founding?

At the time of the founding the Tox was receiving a few hundred enquiries yearly; they are close to 40 000 now. More and more frequently, members of the public also seek the help of Tox Info Suisse. Today highly dangerous chemicals have almost disappeared. However, the number of poisoning

incidents has not decreased but their effect is less serious. The most important changes for poisons information have been brought about by the internet. A lack of information has given way to a flood of information. Now the main responsibility of poisons centres is to evaluate information, which is more challenging than just searching for it and which necessitates a high level of professional competence.



Three generations of presidents: Dr. Dr. Attilio Nisoli, Elisabeth Anderegg-Wirth, Dr. Franz Merki



Networking at the anniversary ceremony, Aura in Zurich

2016: anniversary

The support from all sides made one of the aims of the anniversary possible, which was to achieve even greater recognition of the national emergency hotline 145. The new name 'Tox Info Suisse' and the corporate design were already presented in the previous annual report and they have been in use since 1 January 2015. There has also been extensive media coverage of the anniversary in 2016. The postage stamp in honour of the Tox, the Tox Info app, the ceremony at the end of March, the party for the employees and the symposium at the University of Zurich in autumn round off the anniversary.

Toxicological expertise much in demand

Telephone consultations in toxicological emergencies and responding to prevention questions remained the core task of Tox Info Suisse in 2015 as in the past. In addition, the broad expertise of the toxicologists was much in demand in many areas in the public and private domains.

In 2015 the information service of Tox Info Suisse received 38 406 enquiries (+ 2.6 % compared to 2014). Two thirds (65.8 %) of these enquiries came from the general public, one third (27.7 %) from medical professionals, and 6.5 % from other sources. The website containing up-to-date information regarding poisoning was visited 76 906 times.

Experts on duty

Besides the telephone emergency service Tox Info Suisse compiles expert reports and case analyses for the industry and authorities. Senior medical staff regularly carries out clinical toxicological consultations at the departments and emergency unit of the University Hospital of Zurich. Tox Info Suisse also provides medical emergency advice outside office hours for the pharmaceutical and chemical industry, related to material safety data sheets and international transport of hazardous materials. It also performs emergency unblinding in clinical trials.

Role in the Swiss antidote network

Mandated by the Swiss Conference of cantonal directors of public health, Tox Info Suisse ensures antidote supply in Switzerland in collaboration with the Swiss Association of Public Health Administration and Hospital pharmacists (GSASA) as well as with the pharmacy of the Swiss Army. Updating the Swiss antidote list and the publication of monographs and leaflets on antidotes are also tasks of Tox Info Suisse.

Education

Alessandro Ceschi and Hugo Kupferschmidt contribute to the training of students as lecturers at the school of medicine at the University of Zurich, and in the MSc in Toxicology and MAS in Toxicology programmes at the Universities of Basel and Geneva. Permanent academic staff regularly gives lectures in clinical toxicology for the post-graduate and continuing education of physicians and other members of the medical profession and professional organisations. Of particular note is the all-day seminar for paramedics offered twice a year in collaboration with the Advanced College for Rescue Service Professions. Structured education rounds are offered to the staff of Tox Info Suisse on a weekly basis.

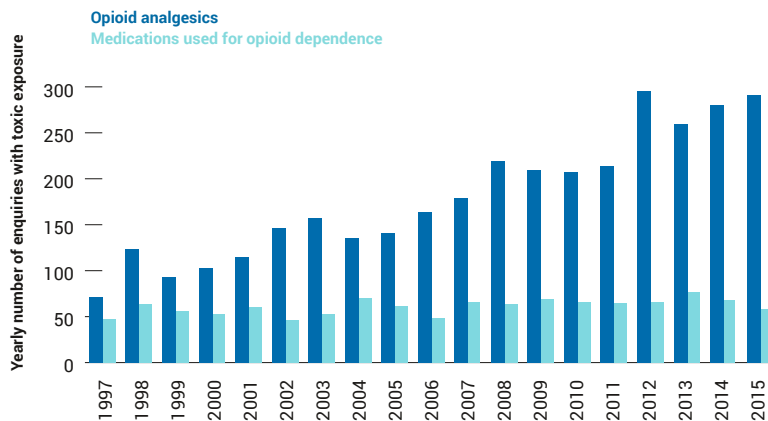
Scientific activities

Research projects are conducted under the lead of the scientific services of Tox Info Suisse in line with the association with the University of Zurich. The main focus of the research efforts are the toxicoepidemiology as well as the dose-effect-relationships in human poisoning, in particular related to drug overdose. Part of this work is performed in the context of medical theses. The research results were presented at national and international scientific meetings, including the annual congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT), the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT), the annual meeting of the Society of Clinical Toxicology (GfKT), the Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine (SSGIM) and the Swiss Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology. Publications are listed on page 22 and the website.

Latest news on drug and substance abuse

Caffeine: the dose makes the poison

In 2015 Tox Info Suisse recorded about 274 enquiries related to products containing caffeine, among which 110 concerned chocolate whose caffeine content is minimal. Caffeine is a naturally occurring alkaloid found in over 60 plant species. In pure form, it is a white bitter-tasting powder. Caffeine is consumed every day by a large part of the population in the form of coffee, tea, chocolate, soft drinks and energy drinks. Caffeine as an active substance is also found in some cold and flu medications as well as in various dietary supplements with the aim to increase strength and support endurance workout, or boost weight loss.



Sensitive people may already experience signs of mild poisoning following the ingestion of a caffeine dose of 200 to 500 mg (ca. 2 cups of coffee, ca. 6 dl energy drink). The ingestion of larger quantities may result in persistent vomiting, rapid heart rate, high blood pressure and agitation. Caffeine is easily absorbed from the gut. Effect onset is after about 15 minutes, and it lasts several hours.

Severe caffeine toxicity involving high doses is a rare occurrence and usually happens in younger patients who, in most cases, deliberately take concentrated preparations to enhance performance or attempt suicide. Luckily, most other caffeine overdoses resolve without any problems. However, easy access to extremely high amounts of caffeine in the form of sports nutrition supplements is alarming. The dosage of this caffeine powder, often pure, is not without problems.

Boom in opioid analgesics

Today opioid analgesics are essential for pain management. In addition, they are used in drug replacement therapy in drug addiction. Tox Info Suisse has noted an increase in the number of enquiries related to toxic exposure to opioid analgesics in the past 19 years, whereas the number of enquiries about opiates in drug replacement therapy has remained stable (see graphic). One possible explanation lies in the fact that opioid analgesics are prescribed more frequently nowadays. These drugs pose a serious threat when available in the home: an accidental ingestion with 1 to 2 of such tablets by a child could cause serious poisoning or even death due to respiratory depression.

Severe GHB withdrawal syndrome

Consultations regarding acute overdoses of Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and related substances such as Gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL) as well as 1,4-Butanediol are decreasing at Tox Info Suisse. However, this does not mean that 'liquid ecstasy', which is the misleading name of these drugs, is consumed less frequently, but adverse drug reactions and symptoms in cases of overdose are well known to people and physicians today.

On the other hand, the number of enquiries about GHB withdrawal is rising. Thus, last year Tox Info Suisse was repeatedly confronted with cases of severe physical withdrawal syndrome after the abrupt interruption of GHB/GBL in people who had been taking substantial quantities over a long period of time, mostly several times daily. Typical GHB withdrawal symptoms include major agitation, along with higher heart rate, tremor, insomnia, hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and excessive sweating. These symptoms appear within a few hours after the last consumption of GHB and keep on about three days or longer in severe cases. Therefore, a planned GHB withdrawal should always take place under medical supervision.

Emergency hotline 145: number of enquiries rising

Year after year, Tox Info Suisse receives more and more calls. In 2015 this figure was 23.16 % higher than 10 years ago. This shows that a personal medical consultation cannot be replaced by the internet.

The core service of Tox Info Suisse is the free telephone emergency consultation for the general public and for medical professionals in all situations of acute or chronic poisoning. Tox Info Suisse also answers theoretical calls without exposure and thus importantly contributes to the prevention of accidental poisoning. All enquiries are electronically recorded in a database which is the basis for this annual report and for scientific analyses. Medical confidentiality and data protection are respected.

General overview of all enquiries

Number of enquiries

In 2015 Tox Info Suisse received 38 406 enquiries. This represents a 2.6 % increase in comparison with the previous year.

Origin of enquiries

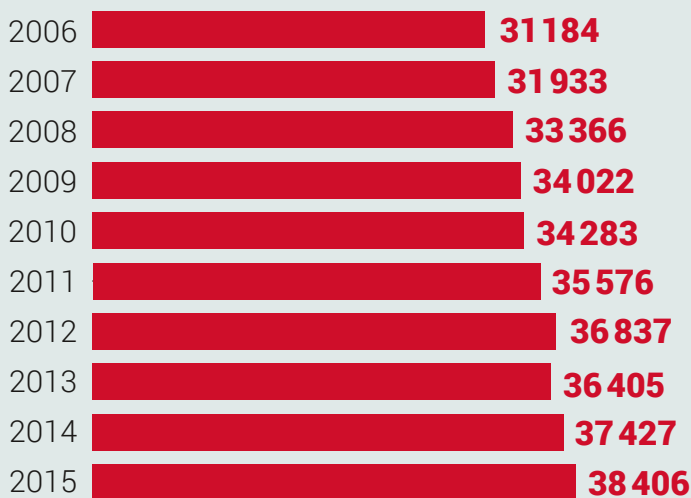
The largest number of enquiries came from the general public, which reflects its need for information and the growing reputation of Tox Info Suisse. Physicians used our services 9 275 times. The majority of these enquiries originated from hospital physicians, which corresponds to the trend that emergency care is increasingly provided by hospitals. Veterinarians accounted for 891 enquiries. Pharmacists submitted 470 enquiries to Tox Info Suisse, which is a decrease of 12% compared to the previous year.

In addition, Tox Info Suisse answered 102 requests for information from the media (newspapers, radio and television). 2 378 enquiries were received from organisations such as emergency services (+10.4 %), nursery homes, industry, poisons centres abroad and unspecified organisations.

Enquiries with or without toxic exposure

Calls can be subdivided into enquiries without exposure and enquiries where an exposure has taken place. Among the 3 105 theoretical enquiries without exposure, information was provided on drugs and antidotes, the toxicity of plants to children and pets as well as the risk of poisoning from spoiled food, household products and chemicals, as well as venomous animals. The recommendations of Tox Info Suisse are predominantly of preventive nature. This subcategory also includes advice and reports for authorities, media, private individuals and various organisations as well as the distribution of fact sheets and referring enquiries to appropriate experts.

The 35 301 enquiries with toxic exposures concerned 33 516 humans and 1 785 animals.



This represents a 23.16 % increase over the last ten years.

09

Origin of enquiries by cantons and population groups

Canton	Population	General public	Hospital physicians	Practitioners	Veterinarians	Pharmacists	Various	Total	Calls/1000 inhabitants	
									public	physicians
AG	645277	2067	615	81	74	49	220	3106	3,2	1,2
AI	15854	39	2	4	–	–	3	48	2,5	0,4
AR	54064	150	30	10	2	–	16	208	2,8	0,8
BE	1009418	3366	967	168	98	56	324	4979	3,3	1,2
BL	281301	870	203	36	19	12	68	1208	3,1	0,9
BS	190580	588	362	35	8	14	66	1073	3,1	2,1
FR	303377	872	172	21	20	32	64	1181	2,9	0,7
GE	477385	1058	357	80	19	21	90	1625	2,2	1,0
GL	39794	94	40	8	3	–	6	151	2,4	1,3
GR	195886	471	178	52	16	9	41	767	2,4	1,3
JU	72410	147	91	6	2	2	13	261	2,0	1,4
LU	394604	1058	335	78	29	6	120	1626	2,7	1,1
NE	177327	441	168	15	18	17	49	708	2,5	1,1
NW	42080	102	25	7	4	1	7	146	2,4	0,9
OW	36834	127	24	10	1	–	14	176	3,4	1,0
SG	495824	1302	427	82	27	18	158	2014	2,6	1,1
SH	79417	234	87	4	8	2	25	360	2,9	1,2
SO	263719	795	175	49	23	8	90	1140	3,0	0,9
SZ	152759	353	103	22	19	7	36	540	2,3	0,9
TG	263733	773	273	50	41	11	79	1227	2,9	1,4
TI	350363	515	339	36	23	25	25	963	1,5	1,1
UR	36008	70	13	3	1	–	6	93	1,9	0,5
VD	761446	1949	589	101	118	65	146	2968	2,6	1,1
VS	331763	732	167	37	26	25	45	1032	2,2	0,7
ZG	120089	321	75	9	30	2	37	474	2,7	0,9
ZH	1446354	6066	1613	296	207	83	668	8933	4,2	1,5
FL	37366	68	7	11	2	–	6	94	1,8	0,5
foreign	–	221	504	14	51	5	38	833	–	–
unknown	–	441	1	8	2	–	20	472	–	–
Total	8 275 032	25 290	7 942	1 333	891	470	2 480	38 406	3,1	1,2
%	–	65,8	20,7	3,5	2,3	1,2	6,5	100	–	–

Human poisoning

Children below 5 years of age most frequently involved

The highest number of cases involved children below five years of age (45.3 %). Overall, children (55.0 %) were more frequently involved in toxic exposures than adults (44.9 %). Boys were more frequently represented amongst the children (51.9 % vs. 46.3 %) and women amongst the adults (59.3 % vs. 40.3 %). This distribution has hardly changed in comparison to the previous year.

Age and gender of human cases with toxic exposure

Age		female	male	unknown	Total			
Children		7912	46,3 %	8876	51,9 %	311	17099	55,0 %
Age	<5 Jahre	6454	81,6 %	7425	83,7 %	214	14093	
	5 – <10 years	636	8,0 %	792	8,9 %	14	1442	
	10 – <16 years	569	7,2 %	381	4,3 %	2	952	
	unknown	253	3,2 %	278	3,1 %	81	612	
Adults		8274	59,3 %	5629	40,3 %	54	13957	44,9 %
Age	16 – <20 years	563	6,8 %	326	5,8 %	1	890	
	20 – <40 years	1726	20,9 %	1380	24,5 %	2	3108	
	40 – <65 years	1474	17,8 %	1101	19,6 %	2	2577	
	65 – <80 years	389	4,7 %	241	4,3 %	–	630	
	80+ years	185	2,2 %	120	2,1 %	–	305	
	unknown	3937	47,6 %	2461	43,7 %	49	6447	
unknown		10	21,7 %	11	23,9 %	25	46	0,1 %
Total		16 196	52,1 %	14 516	46,7 %	390	31 102	100 %

11

Most toxic exposures are accidental, in other words non-intentional. Small children are mainly involved.

Accidental poisonings predominate

A distinction is made between the circumstances of poisoning which can be divided into three categories: accidental (non-intentional) poisonings, intentional poisonings and adverse drug reactions. Accidental poisonings occur at home (private housing and garden), occupational (workplace)

and environmental (caused by human activities, food, drinking water or breathing air). Intentional poisonings are suicides, attempted suicides, drug abuse and criminal poisonings (by third party).

Circumstances of toxic exposures in humans

Circumstances of toxic exposures		Acute poisoning (exposure ≤8h)		Chronic poisoning (exposure >8h)	
accidental domestic	22009	70,8%	474	1,5%	
accidental occupational	1151	3,7%	92	0,3%	
accidental environmental	34	0,1%	11	0,04%	
accidental others	1600	5,1%	88	0,3%	
Total accidental	24 794	79,7%	665	2,1%	
intentional suicide	3308	10,6%	56	0,2%	
intentional abuse	527	1,7%	88	0,3%	
intentional criminal	95	0,3%	13	0,04%	
intentional others	761	2,4%	155	0,5%	
Total intentional	4 691	15,1%	312	1,0%	
Total accidental and intentional	29 485	94,8%	977	3,1%	
Total acute and chronic		30 462	97,9%		
adverse drug reactions		268	0,9%		
unclassifiable / others		372	1,2%		
Total		31 102	100%		

In both groups of toxic exposures it is necessary to distinguish between acute poisoning (exposure ≤ 8 hours) and chronic poisoning (exposure > 8 hours).

Repeated single exposures are often difficult to classify. In addition, adverse drug reactions can be observed in the context of a drug therapy.

12

Agents

For analysis, the agents (toxins) involved were split into 12 groups. The distribution has not changed significantly in comparison to the previous year.

A supplement with details to the individual agent groups are available on www.toxinfo.ch.

Frequency of agent groups in all cases of human poisoning

Agents / Age groups	Adults	Children	Age unknown		Total
Pharmaceuticals	5858	5107	13	10978	35,3 %
Household products	2606	5544	5	8155	26,2 %
Plants	575	2229	1	2805	9,0 %
Cosmetics and personal care products	344	1821	–	2165	7,0 %
Technical and industrial products	1575	381	3	1959	6,3 %
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	794	574	6	1374	4,4 %
Recreational drugs and alcohol	598	403	5	1006	3,2 %
Agricultural and horticultural products	406	391	1	798	2,6 %
Mushrooms	234	154	2	390	1,3 %
Venomous animals	264	123	–	387	1,2 %
Veterinary drugs	66	49	–	115	0,4 %
other or unknown agents	637	323	10	970	3,1 %
Total	13 957	17 099	46	31 102	100 %

Severity of poisonings

9 021 enquiries from physicians (97.3 % of all medical enquiries) were related to cases of expected or already established poisoning. In these cases, the treating physicians received a summary of the telephone consultation, together with a request for feedback on the clinical outcome. Tox Info Suisse received a report on the outcome in 69.9 % of these cases. Thus Tox Info Suisse receives medically qualified information on symptoms, clinical outcome and treatment of acute and chronic poisonings which is entered and analysed in our in-house database.

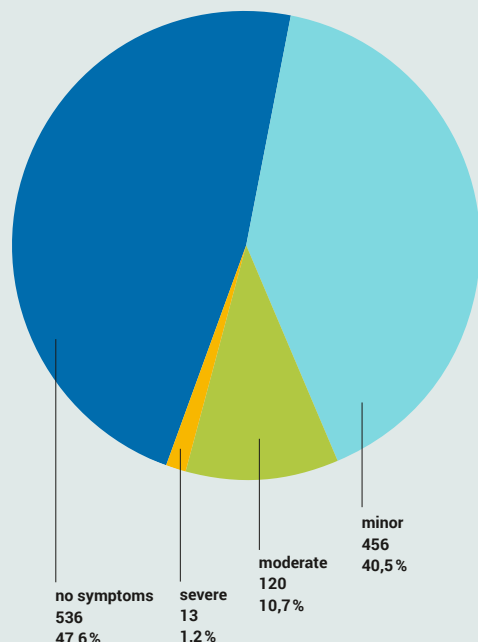
Data capture and evaluation are standardised according to circumstances, causality and severity of poisoning. These cases are categorised as follows: no symptoms, minor, moderate, severe, or fatal. Minor symptoms typically require no treatment, moderate symptoms usually require treatment, and cases with severe symptoms must invariably be treated.

This annual report only includes poisonings where the causality was confirmed or likely. Confirmed means that the toxin has been analytically detected in the body, the time course and symptoms are compatible with the toxin, and the symptoms could not be explained by an underlying illness or any other cause. Likely causality fulfils the same criteria, except that the agent has not been detected in the body.

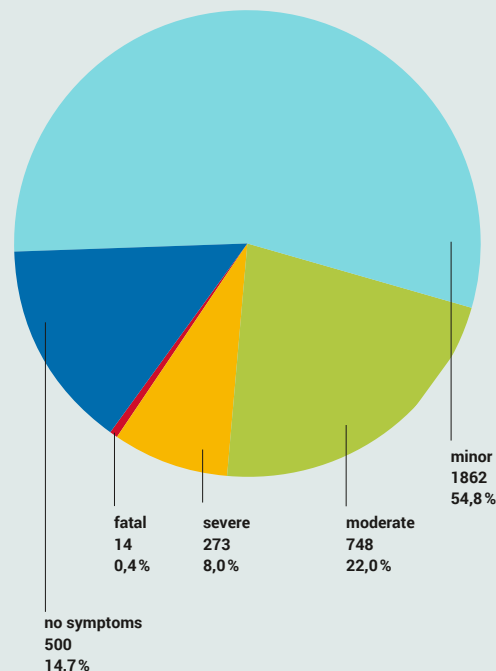
4 522 human cases both asymptomatic and symptomatic with sufficient evidence of causality were analysed further with regard to clinical course (-4.9 % compared to 2014).

Clinical outcome of poisoning cases in children and adults

Children (n = 1125)



Adults (n = 3397)



Of the 4 522 cases where causality was confirmed or likely, about three fifths involved an ingestion of only one toxin. In two fifths of the cases, two or more agents were involved. These cases have been classified according to the most important agent involved.

Frequency of agent groups and severity of human poisoning in cases where medical feedback was received and analysed

Agent groups	Adults					Children					Total	
	N	Mi	Mo	S	F	N	Mi	Mo	S	F		
Pharmaceuticals	368	1 125	425	197	13	318	209	62	9	–	2 726	60,3%
Household products	37	160	50	7	1	96	128	25	1	–	505	11,2%
Technical and industrial products	40	250	57	16	–	8	26	3	2	–	402	8,9%
Recreational drugs and alcohol	17	144	131	38	–	16	17	9	–	–	372	8,2%
Plants	7	26	14	2	–	32	24	6	–	–	111	2,5%
Cosmetics and personal care products	16	22	6	–	–	20	24	6	1	–	95	2,1%
Mushrooms	2	17	17	5	–	16	3	2	–	–	62	1,4%
Venomous animals	1	25	14	2	–	2	6	3	–	–	53	1,2%
Agricultural and horticultural products	5	22	5	1	–	13	2	–	–	–	48	1,1%
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	2	14	13	2	–	9	7	1	–	–	48	1,1%
Veterinary drugs	1	6	2	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	12	0,3%
other or unknown agents	4	51	14	3	–	4	9	3	–	–	88	1,9%
Total	500	1 862	748	273	14	536	456	120	13	–	4 522	100%

Severity of poisoning: N = no symptoms, Mi = minor, Mo = moderate, S = severe, F = fatal

Animal poisoning

Animals involved

1 785 enquiries relating to 1 713 cases concerned a large variety of animals also in 2015: 1 216 dogs, 373 cats, 42 equines (horses, ponies, donkeys), 28 bovines (calves, cows, cattle, sheep and goats), 6 rodents (guinea pigs, hamsters, chinchillas), 24 lagomorphs (hares, rabbits), 7 birds (chickens, parrots, cockatoo, canary), 5 pigs, 2 fish, 1 reptile (tortoise), 3 hedgehogs, 2 alpacas, 2 ferrets, 1 roe deer and 1 camel.

Frequency of agent groups in all cases of animal poisoning

Agent groups		No. of enquiries
Pharmaceuticals	349	19,6%
Plants	327	18,3%
Agricultural and horticultural products	315	17,6%
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	257	14,4%
Household products	201	11,3%
Veterinary drugs	103	5,8%
Technical and industrial products	44	2,5%
Venomous animals	38	2,1%
Recreational drugs and alcohol	29	1,6%
Cosmetics and personal care products	22	1,2%
Mushrooms	12	0,7%
other or unknown agents	88	4,9%
Total	1 785	100%

Severity of poisonings

Veterinarians were also requested to submit clinical reports on animal poisoning. Tox Info Suisse received a total of 320 reports which could be analysed.

Frequency of agent groups and severity of animal poisoning in cases where medical feedback was received and analysed

Agent groups	Severity of poisoning					Outcome	Total
	N	Mi	Mo	S	F		
Pharmaceuticals	50	30	10	6	–	96	30,0%
Agricultural and horticultural products	32	4	4	3	1	44	13,8%
Plants	14	15	11	2	–	42	13,1%
Veterinary drugs	20	13	6	2	–	41	12,8%
Food and beverages (excl. mushrooms and alcohol)	26	8	5	–	–	39	12,2%
Household products	11	9	5	–	–	25	7,8%
Venomous animals	1	1	2	4	2	10	3,1%
Technical and industrial products	4	–	1	1	1	7	2,2%
Mushrooms	1	2	1	–	–	4	1,3%
Recreational drugs and alcohol	–	1	2	–	–	3	0,9%
Cosmetics and personal care products	–	–	–	–	–	0	0,0%
other or unknown agents	1	2	5	–	1	9	2,8%
Total	160	85	52	18	5	320	100%

Severity of poisoning: N = no symptoms, Mi = minor, Mo = moderate, S = severe, F = fatal

Annual financial statement well balanced

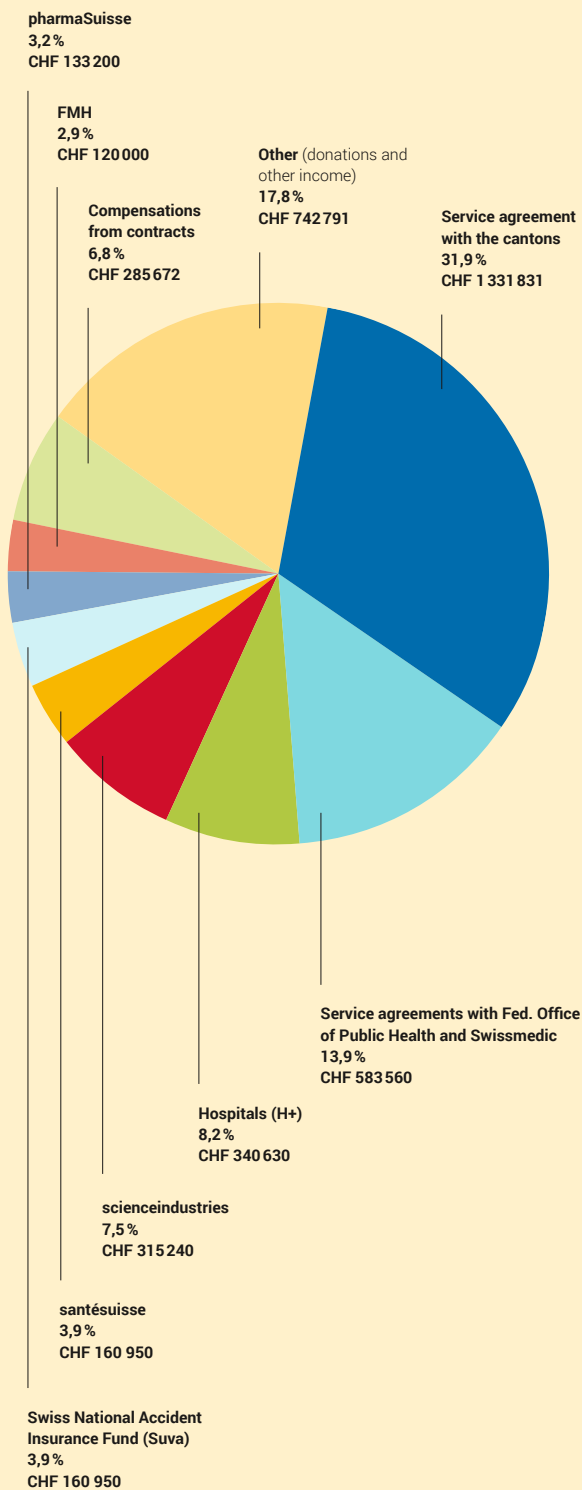
Income statement 2015

Income	CHF
Contributions from supporting bodies	890 340
Income from contracts	
Federation	583 560
Cantons	1 331 831
others	285 672
Hospitals (H+)	340 630
Honoraria and expert opinions	17 820
Research projects	782
Donations	88 042
other income (Tox Info Suisse anniversary)	151 734
Interest and benefits from equity	8 316
Cash receipts from sales of equity	476 097
Total income	4 174 824
Expenses	
Staff costs	2 834 471
Facilities	138 643
Furniture and equipment	51 191
IT costs	258 926
Office and administration costs	27 977
Communication	15 692
Literature and archiving costs	10 722
Research and education costs	550
Bank charges, interest	1 781
Telephone, postage, facsimile	34 269
other expenses (anniversary)	70 889
Provision to assure long-term liquidity	640 000
Provision for the year 2016 jubilee	80 845
Total expenses	4 165 956
Net profit	8 868

Balance 2015

Assets	CHF
Current assets	
cash	3 220 507
trade accounts receivable	399 017
account EAPCCT	6 626
other short-term receivables	2 409
prepaid expenses	20 048
Total assets	3 648 607
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	
trade accounts payable	77 709
other short-term payables	48 769
deferred income	284 838
provisions anniversary 2016	231 641
Provisions	
provisions	2 147 959
foundation capital and general reserves	800 400
profit carried forward	48 423
Profit	8 868
Total liabilities	3 648 607

Source of income



Auditor's report



Thanks to all donors!

Tox Info Suisse is a charitable non-profit making private foundation. It is partly funded by donations from companies, organisations and private individuals. The donations are used exclusively to support the poisons information service.

Donations 2015 of and above CHF 1000

Each contribution to the donation account supports the future of the poisons information service! We thank all donors in advance for their payment to:

PC 80-26074-7 or Credit Suisse: IBAN CH24 0483 5018 3570 3000 0

Online donations can be made on our website.

10 000: City of Zurich

3000: Gaba Schweiz AG; Henkel & Cie AG; Pfizer AG, Procter & Gamble Switzerland SARL; Schweizerischer Kosmetik- und Waschmittelverband; Unilever Schweiz GmbH

2000: Reckitt Benckiser Switzerland AG; Schweizerische Vereinigung für Kleintiermedizin; Schweizerische Zahnärzte Gesellschaft SSO

1000: Astra Zeneca AG; Borer Chemie AG; Cyntos AG; Ebi Pharm AG; Dr. med. Markus Frey; Glaxo Smith Kline AG; IBSA Institut Biochimique SA; Ideal Chimic SA; Jardin Suisse; KWZ AG, Renovita AG; Schweizerischer Drogistenverband; SC Johnson GmbH; Swiss Revision AG; Zambon Svizzera SA

Smaller contributions not listed here are frequent and very welcome. We extend grateful thanks to all donors.

Donations for the anniversary 50 years Tox Info Suisse

Donations and project contributions have been received especially for the 50th anniversary. We extend grateful thanks to all donors for their generous support, without which this step into the future would not have been so successful.

BAG Bundesamt für Gesundheit; Claude Léon Marie Bastian; Dr. med. Claude Bavaud Schmocker; Dr. med. Joël Berret; Dr. med. Walter Bleisch Rickli; Chocosuisse (Verband Schweizerischer Schokoladefabrikanten); CIM Chemicals AG; Dr. med. Jacques Claude; Coca-Cola Schweiz GmbH; Compo Jardin AG; Dr. med. Marjorie Cosandey Tissot Daguette; Credit Suisse AG; Cyntos AG; Dr. med. Colette Degrandi; Dorfpraxis Ottenbach; Elpochem AG; Ess + Müller AG; F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG; Galepharm AG; Dr. Caspar Gattiker; Dr. med. Monica Glauser; Dr. med. Maria Grosheintz Laval Kraan; Hacoba AG; Häberlin & Co AG; HCI Solutions AG; Hevapl A AG; Dr. med. Katharina Hofer; Isabelle Hohl; Induchem AG; IVF Hartmann AG; Jura Cement Fabriken AG; Dr. med. Margrit Klingler Bigler; KWZ AG; Lithofin AG; Lonza Ltd.; Lotteriefonds aller Kantone der Schweiz; Dr. med. Karl Mannhart; Dr. med. Gabriele Martin; Medi 24 AG; Menegalli SA; Merck (Schweiz) AG; Dr. med. Cornelia Moll Roth; Motip Dupli AG; Dr. med. Martin Josef Müller; Mundipharma Medical Company; Dr. med. Rudolf Näf; Dr. med. Ulrich R. Nägeli; Notfall Zürich 3 AG; pharmaSuisse (Schweizerischer Apothekerverband); Praxisgemeinschaft Altstetten; Proreo Pharma AG; Dr. med. Rodolfo Roth; Rottapharm SA; Dr. med. Stephan Rupp; Dr. med. Roger Russenberger; Dr. med. Christoph Albert Schmitt; Dr. med. Eduard Schnegg; Solvay Schweiz AG; Dr. med. Silvana Speck Bürki; Suva; Swan Analytische Instrumente AG; The Swatch Group Ltd; Dr. med. Evelyn Trippi; Victorinox AG; Dr. med. Andreas Rudolf von Planta Hediger; Vontobel-Stiftung; VZ Vermögens-Zentrum AG; Dr. med. Andreas Würmli; Erika Wüthrich; Dr. med. Michel Zuber; Zürich Seebachdoctors AG; Dr. med. Hansueli Zweifel; Zweifel Pomy-Chips AG

Quality and funding need to be secured

With the exception of slight variations, the number of enquiries received by Tox Info Suisse generally shows a clear upward trend. However, the growing demand for the services presents enormous personnel and organisational challenges. Since there are limits to efficiency enhancement, it will become problematic when funding can no longer keep pace with the extra strain.

Networking in areas of public health which become more relevant in the future is crucial for Tox Info Suisse. Such areas include chemical safety, drug safety, suicide prevention, and disaster preparedness and control. Tox Info Suisse is able to contribute significantly in all these fields, and all can bring financial support to the Tox.

First year with new corporate design

The new presentation of Tox Info Suisse has been well accepted by the various target audiences. The staff showed no hesitation in accepting the new logo and learnt to appreciate it. The new name was well received not only in all linguistic regions of Switzerland but also internationally. The expressive and original logo is a modern and contemporary foundation to make the trademark Tox Info Suisse better known amongst the population, politicians and the media. A solid foundation for the next 50 years!

Corporate governance is important

Not only has the Foundation Council taken the 50th anniversary of the Tox as an opportunity to modernize the external perception with a new corporate design, but it has also taken a step forward by reviewing the corporate governance in order to adjust and strengthen the structures of the foundation to meet future requirements. As a result, the conditions will be created so that the foundation can also meet its responsibilities for the next 50 years.

Growing demand for the services of the Tox

The number of exposures to potentially toxic substances remains almost constant in a stable population. The population growth is therefore the main reason for the increase in enquiries received by Tox Info Suisse. The greater recognition of the emergency hotline, the development of a 24-hour society and the lower inhibition threshold in using information services all play an additional role. The growing demand for the services of the Tox presents a challenge especially for personnel re-

quirements and, consequently, also in financial terms. In addition, there are concerns that it is often not easy to find enough qualified personnel. Therefore, it is important that the Tox shows concern for its staff and plays its role as a responsible employer.

Funding needs to be secured

The funding of Tox Info Suisse, which makes the free telephone emergency consultation for callers possible, often gives rise to discussions. It is not self-evident that all the partners of the healthcare sector continue to show solidarity and contribute financially. Owing to cost-saving measures the Swiss Medical Association FMH has cancelled its contribution for 2017 and scienceindustries has reduced its contribution by half at the same time. The fact that for the first time the full proceeds were achieved under the 2015 service agreement with the hospitals mitigates the effects of these cuts. However, it shows that in the medium-term the funding of this free service cannot be taken for granted. The Foundation Council is well aware that it is necessary to exploit new sources of funding to maintain today's service quality and it is undertaking efforts accordingly.

The work of Tox Info Suisse enjoys broad support

Tox Info Suisse is a private foundation. It was established in 1966 and is based on a successful private-public partnership.

Supporting bodies



Pharmasuisse is the Swiss pharmacists' Association. It is the founder of the Swiss Toxicological Information Centre in 1966, now Tox Info Suisse.



Scienceindustries is the Swiss business association for the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotech industries. It is the co-founder of the Swiss Toxicological Information Centre in 1966, now Tox Info Suisse.



FMH is the Swiss Medical Association.



Santésuisse is the inter-trade organisation of Swiss health insurance companies in the domain of social health insurance.



Suva is the biggest institution in the field of compulsory accident insurance in Switzerland.



H+ is the national central association of public and private hospitals, infirmaries, and nursing homes.

Partners



Tox Info Suisse is an Associated Institute of the University of Zurich in the domains of research and education.

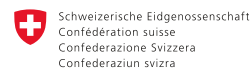
Service Level Agreements



The services for the general population in Switzerland are regulated by a service level agreement with the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Public Health (GDK).



Tox Info Suisse is involved with the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (www.eapccct.org).



Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
Bundesamt für Gesundheit BAG

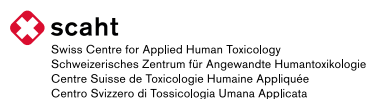
By order of the Swiss Federation, and on the basis of the law and ordinance on chemicals, Tox Info Suisse contributes significantly to emergency consultation and poisoning prevention.



Tox Info Suisse collaborates closely with the Society of Clinical Toxicology (Gesellschaft für Klinische Toxikologie, GfKT) which is the professional society of the German-speaking poisons information centres and of clinical toxicologists.

Swissmedic

By order of the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic) Tox Info Suisse provides toxicovigilance in the domain of pharmaceuticals.



Tox Info Suisse is represented in the foundation council of the SCAHT.

Individuals committed to Tox Info Suisse

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Vice President: Marcel Sennhauser, scienceindustries

Members: Prof. Michael Arand, University of Zurich / Dr. Roland Charrière, Federal Office of Public Health / Dominique Jordan, pharmaSuisse / Dr. Martin Kuster, scienceindustries / Marion Matousek, pharmaSuisse / Verena Nold, santésuisse / Dr. Claudia Pletscher, Suva / Dr. Gert Printzen, FMH / Cantonal Government Councilor Petra Steimen, GDK / Dr. Samuel Steiner, GDK / Dr. Bernhard Wegmüller, H+ / Dr. Thomas Weiser, scienceindustries

Honorary President: Dr. Dr. h.c. Attilio Nisoli

Honorary member: Dr. Franz Merki

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Director: Hugo Kupferschmidt, M.D.

Head physician and deputy director: Christine Rauber-Lüthy, M.D.

Senior physicians: Cornelia Reichert, M.D. / Katharina Hofer, M.D. /

Colette Degrandi, M.D.

Head of scientific services: Alessandro Ceschi, PD M.D. (until 31.5.2015)

Head Administration: Elfi Blum

Staff

Natascha Anders, nurse / Jeanne Antheaume, M.D. (since 1.4.2015) / Alexandra Bloch, dipl. pharm. / Vanessa Büttler, optional elective year (Aug.-Oct. 2015) / Danièle Chanson, executive secretary / Trudy Christian, secretary / Anja Dessauvague, med. pract. (until 30.6.2015) / Katrin Faber, M.D. / Joanna Farmakis, cleaning service / Joan Fuchs, M.D. / Mirjam Gessler, med. pract. / Andrea Gretener, secretary / Karen Gutscher, M.D. / Rose-Marie Hauser, management secretary / Theresa Hiltmann, M.D. / Irene Jost-Lippuner, M.D. / Seraina Kägi, M.D. (since 1.9.2015) / Helen Klingler, M.D. / Sandra Koller-Palenzona, M.D. / Andreas Krammer, M.D. (until 31.5.2015) / Jacqueline Kupper, vet.D. / Saskia Lüde, Dr. phil. II / Valentina Mancini, secretary (until 30.6.2015) / Milton Meerwein, med. pract. (until 31.10.2015) / Franziska Möhr-Spahr, secretary / Ester Rühli-Wilhelm, med. pract. (since 1.11.2015) / Katharina Schenk, M.D. / Stefanie Schulte-Vels, med. pract. / Joanna Stanczyk Feldges, M.D. / Jolanda Tremp, secretary / Sonja Tscherry, nurse / Margot von Dechend, M.D. / Tanja Wimmer, M.D. (since 1.1.2015) / Karin Zuber, secretary (since 1.7.2015).

Advisors

Numerous experts from hospitals, institutes, state and federal organisations act as honorary advisers, most notably Jean-Pierre Lorent (former Director of the Tox) and Professor Martin Wilks (SCAHT).

Scientific publications

The list of the scientific publications, doctoral theses and master theses can also be found on the website www.toxinfo.ch.

Some of the listed papers can be downloaded from our website www.toxinfo.ch. All others are accessible through scientific libraries. Leaflets about first aid and poisoning prevention are also available in German, French and Italian.

Lifestyle factors, psychiatric and neurologic comorbidities, and drug use associated with incident seizures among adult patients with depression: a population-based nested case-control study.
Bloechlinger M, Ceschi A, Rüegg S, Jick SS, Meier CR, Bodmer M. Eur J Epidemiol 2015; 1-12. DOI 10.1007/s10654-016-0156-4 [early online].

Acute sirolimus overdose: a multicenter case series.
Ceschi A, Heistermann E, Gros S, Reichert C, Kupferschmidt H, Banner NR, Krähenbühl S, Taegtmeier AB. PLoS ONE 2015; 10: e0128033.

Nalmefen und Opioid-Entzugssyndrom: systematische Analyse der globalen Pharmacovigilance-Datenbank.
Dahmke H, Kupferschmidt H, Kullak-Ublick GA, Weiler S. Praxis 2015; 104: 1129-34.

Fett für einmal gesund.
Degrandi C, Winter A, Dullenkopf A, Reichert C. Schweiz Med Forum 2015; 15: 260-2.

Identification and quantification of biomarkers to confirm the poisoning by Ginkgo biloba seeds in a 2-year-old boy.
Di Lorenzo C, Ceschi A, Colombo F, Frigerio G, Bianchetti MG, Lüde S, von Dechend M, Valoti E, Restani P. Toxicol Res 2015; 4: 922-30.

Severe envenomation by Bothrops venezuelensis [abstract].
Faber K, Tuchscherer D, Martinez M, Fuchs J, Tsakiris DA, Hofer KE. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 48-9.

Medication incidents in primary care medicine: protocol of a study by the Swiss Federal Sentinel Reporting System.
Gnädinger M, Ceschi A, Conen D, Herzig L, Puhan M, Staehelin A, Zoller M. BMJ Open 2015; 5: e007773.

Causality assessment of fatal poisoning: Evaluation of the Gfkt causality score [abstract].
Hermanns-Clausen M, Schaper A, Holzer A, Koch I, Stürer A, Stürzebecher A, Rhode S, Kupferschmidt H. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 261-2.

Acute toxicity profile of tolperisone in overdose: A consecutive case series [abstract].
Hofer KE, Martos V, Rauber-Lüthy C, Schenk-Jaeger KM, Kupferschmidt H, Ceschi A. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 383-4.

The frequency distribution of lead concentration in feathers, blood, bone, kidney and liver of golden eagles Aquila chrysaetos: insights into the modes of uptake.
Jenni L, Madry MM, Kraemer T, Kupper J, Naegeli H, Jenny H, Jenny D. J Ornithol 2015; 156: 1095-1103.

Duloxetine overdose: A case series [abstract].
Just S, Gros S, Reichert C, Heistermann E, Hoffmann-Walbeck P, Stedtler U, Seidel C, Färber E, Stoletzki S, Dostal G, Genser D, Prasa D. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 387.

Nicht mehr als 1/16 eines Kaffeelöffels, sonst wird es gefährlich!
Koster M, Schmidli M, Hofer KE, Schmitter T. Schweiz Med Forum 2015; 15: 282-4.

Antidote bei Vergiftungen 2015–2016.
Kupferschmidt H, Rauber-Lüthy Ch, Cingria L, Fäh C, Heer D, Meister Th, Vassalli L. Bull BAG 2015; 35: 656-71.

Book Review. Oxford Desk Reference Toxicology.
Kupferschmidt H. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 928.

Vergiftungen in der Schweiz. Zur Beratungstätigkeit 2014 von Tox Info Suisse.
Kupferschmidt H, Rauber-Lüthy C. Schweiz Aerzteztg 2015; 96: 1310-13.

Jahresbericht 2014 von Tox Info Suisse. 70 % der schweren Vergiftungen gehen auf Medikamente zurück.
Lüde S, Hofer K, Reichert C, Rauber-Lüthy C. pharmaJournal 2015; 24: 15-7.

Excessive lead burden among golden eagles in the Swiss Alps.
Madry MM, Kraemer T, Kupper J, Naegeli HP, Jenny H, Jenni L, Jenny D. Environ Res Lett 2015; 10: 034003.

Acute toxicity profile of tolperisone in overdose: Observational poison centre-based study.
Martos V, Hofer KE, Rauber-Lüthy C, Schenk-Jaeger KM, Kupferschmidt H, Ceschi A. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 470-6.

Dangerous reef aquaristics: Palytoxin of a brown encrusting anemone causes toxic corneal reactions.
Ruiz Y, Fuchs J, Beuschel R, Tschopp M, Goldblum D. Toxicon 2015; 106: 42-45.

Neue Ursachen von Tierverschärfungen in der Schweiz.
Schediwiy M, Mevissen M, Demuth D, Kupper J, Naegeli H. Schweiz Arch Tierheilkd 2015; 157: 147-52.

Accidental Panaeolus foenicis exposures: No clinically relevant effects in children [abstract].
Schenk-Jaeger KM, Plenert B, Eckart D, Haberl B, Schulze G, Borchert-Avalone J, Stedtler U, Pfab R. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 340.

Kinderunfälle mit Pilzen. Eine gute und eine schlechte Nachricht!
Schenk-Jaeger KM. SZP – Schweiz Zeitschr Pilzkd 2015; 93(3): 18.

Muskelzersetzung (Rhabdomyolyse) nach Genuss des Erdritterlings (Tricholoma terreum)?
Schenk-Jaeger KM. SZP – Schweiz Zeitschr Pilzkd 2015; 93(1): 16-17.

Pilzvergiftungen 2014.
Schenk-Jaeger KM. SZP – Schweiz Zeitschr Pilzkd 2015; 93(2): 13-16.

Acute kidney injury in three dogs after ingestion of a descaling agent containing maleic acid.
Schweighauser A, Francey T, Gurtner C, Kupferschmidt H, Rauber-Lüthy C. Vet Rec Case Rep 2015; 3: e000248 [early online].

Incidence and causative agents of chemical eye injuries in Switzerland.
Tschopp M, Krähenbühl P, Tappeiner C, Kupferschmidt H, Quarroz S, Goldblum D, Frueh BE. Clin Toxicol 2015; 53: 957-61.

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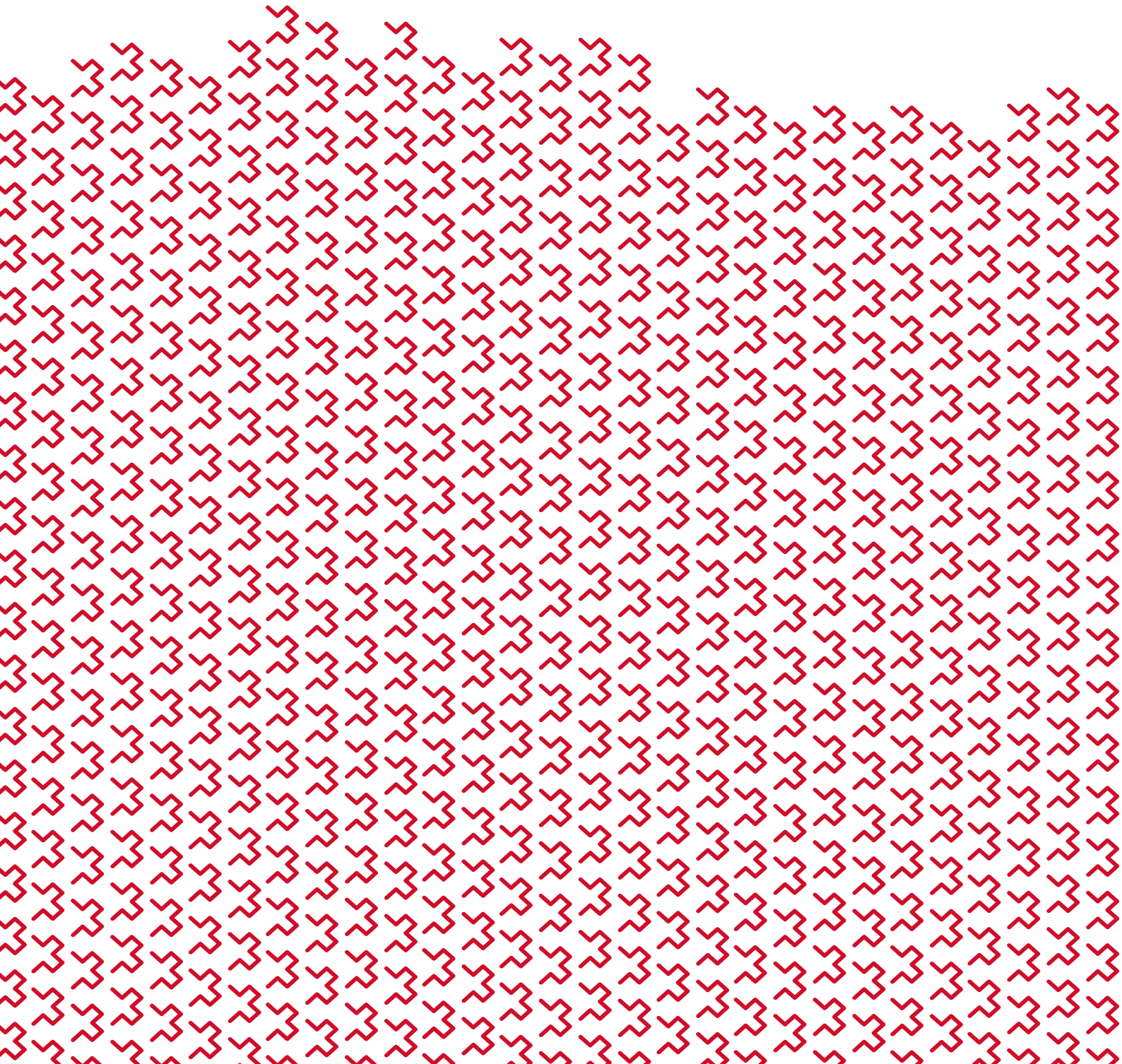
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