

Appointments by the ETH Board of 6/7 July 2011

New professors at the ETH Zurich and the EPFL

Zurich, 8 July 2011 – At its meeting of 6 and 7 July 2011, the ETH Board appointed various professors at the ETH Zurich and the EPFL upon application of the Presidents of both universities.

ETH Zurich

Upon application of the President of the ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler, the ETH Board has appointed the following individuals as full professors at the ETH Zurich:

Annette Gigon (*1959), currently co-owner and principal of the internationally renowned architectural office GIGON/GUYER, which she set up with Mike Guyer in 1989, as Full Professor of Architecture and Construction with a teaching load of 50%. GIGON/GUYER's buildings have been awarded numerous prizes both at home and abroad, among them the 2002 Fritz Schumacherpreis and the 2009 Prize of the Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Their latest projects include the Prime Tower on Zurich's Maag-Areal with its two annexe buildings, with which design GIGON/GUYER successfully beat off international competition.

Mike Guyer (*1958), currently co-owner and principal of the internationally renowned architectural office GIGON/GUYER, which he set up with Annette Gigon in 1989, as Full Professor of Architecture and Construction with a teaching load of 50%. GIGON/GUYER have primarily earned themselves a great deal of recognition with the diversity of office, residential and museum architecture, as well as the authentic restoration of historic buildings. Annette Gigon and Mike Guyer do not only constitute a valuable enrichment for the Department of Architecture as dedicated teachers but also through their reinforcement of the research area of design.

Prof. Dr. Gregory J. Velicer (*1967), currently Associate Professor at Indiana University Bloomington, USA, as Full Professor of Evolutionary Biology. The evolution of cooperation between individuals, which is the focal point of Gregory Velicer's research, belongs to the most important questions in evolutionary biology. With the appointment of Gregory Velicer, who is regarded as one of the world's leading scientists in the field of experimental evolution, the ETH Zurich is expanding its internationally high reputation in basic research in the field of evolutionary biology and ecology.

Prof. Dr. Helma Wennemers (*1969), currently Full Professor at the University of Basel, as Full Professor of Organic Chemistry. In her work, which has been awarded several prizes, Helma Wennemers focuses on bio-inspired molecules, which can act as catalysts, receptors or structural frameworks for complex systems. For the ETH Zurich the appointment of this versatile researcher, who is working on both the central issues of modern chemistry and highly relevant questions of biology and materials sciences, is an important step into the future for its Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences.

Upon application of the President of the ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler, the ETH Board has appointed the following individuals as associate professors at the ETH Zurich:

Prof. Dr. Srđan Čapkun (*1976), currently Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science of the ETH Zurich, as Associate Professor of Computer Science. Srđan Čapkun's research results in the field of network security enjoy a high degree of recognition on account of contributions to important topical problems, and are the object of both media reports and leading conferences. Special hardware developments in the context of current research on distance-bounding authentication methods are considered to be pioneering work in this field. He has also earned himself excellent evaluations in teaching.

Prof. Dr. Jess Gerrit Snedeker (*1972), currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering, as Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Biomechanics (double professorship with the University of Zurich). His research foci are in the field of modelling for the examination of the effect of accidents on the human body and of the biomechanical behaviour of connective tissue. These models have not only been awarded several international prizes but also make an important contribution towards the linkage between medicine and biomechanics.

Prof. Dr. Laurent Stalder (*1970), currently Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture, as Associate Professor of Theory of Architecture. Laurent Stalder's research focuses on the fields of the history, criticism and theory of architecture of the 19th to 21st centuries in Europe and North America. He has also earned a reputation as an architectural critic. In 2008, the Federal Office of Culture awarded him the "The most beautiful Swiss books" prize for his book about the Swiss architect Valerio Olgiati. The accompanying exhibition can at present be seen in Porto (Portugal) and subsequently in Tokyo (Japan).

Upon application of the President of the ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler, the ETH Board has further appointed the following individual as tenure-track assistant professor of the ETH Zurich:

Dr. Wanda Mimra (*1982), currently a postdoc at the University of Cologne, as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Risk and Insurance Economics. While working on her doctoral thesis, which she recently completed, Wanda Mimra gained important insights into how insurance markets work with asymmetrical information and put these insights on an analytical basis. Wanda Mimra's findings in the fields of insurance economics, contract theory, competition policy and health economics also provide a basis for the preparation of guidelines for the regulation of insurance markets and are an ideal complement to the planned development of the focal points of the Department of Management, Technology and Economics, as well as the Risk Center of the ETH Zurich.

Upon application of the President of the ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler, the ETH Board has further appointed the following individual as assistant professor of the ETH Zurich:

Dr. Michael Eichmair (*1983), currently C. L. E. Moore Instructor Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, USA, as Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Michael Eichmair, who until his move to the ETH Zurich held the Instructor's post named after the famous mathematician Clarence Lemuel Elisha Moore at the MIT in Cambridge, is among the leading young researchers in the field of geometrical analysis. His research interests focus on partial differential equations occurring in geometrical issues. With Michael Eichmair, the ETH Zurich does not only welcome a brilliant young scientist of international renown but also a dedicated and reputable teacher.

Upon application of the President of the ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler, the ETH Board has further appointed the following individuals as adjunct professors of the ETH Zurich:

Dr. Pietro Lura, Dr. Hans Arno Synal

Moreover, the ETH Board has taken note of the resignation of the following professor:

Prof. Dr. Bernard Lehmann (*1954), currently Full Professor of Agricultural Economics. Bernard Lehmann is leaving the ETH Zurich because the Federal Council appointed him as the new Director General of the Federal Office for Agriculture as from 1 July 2011. In his research, he examined the agricultural utilisation of natural resources and the related value-creation systems in the foodstuff sector. His findings about the performance of the ecosystem and environmental pollution constitute an important basis for decision-makers in society and the economy. The ETH Zurich would like to express its thanks for his achievements in teaching, research and academic administration.

EPFL

Upon application of the President of the EPFL, Prof. Dr. Patrick Aebischer, the ETH Board has appointed the following individual as full professor of the EPFL:

Prof. Dr. Olivier Martin (*1963), currently Associate Professor of Nanophotonics and Light Impulses at the EPFL as Full Professor of Nanophotonics and Light Impulses. Olivier Martin is regarded worldwide as a leading scientist in the field of plasmonics in general and nano-optics and optical nano-antennae in particular. The focus of his research is the development of models for the interaction of light with various complex structures, nanofabrication for the production of theoretical structures and optical characterisation. Research results in this field open up new possibilities for faster data transmission and can be applied in areas such as high-resolution lithography and microscopy. Olivier Martin is the author of numerous specialist articles and is greatly involved as the Director of the Doctoral Programme in Photonics.

Upon application of the President of the EPFL, Prof. Dr. Patrick Aebischer, the ETH Board has appointed the following individuals as associate professors of the EPFL:

Prof. Dr. Silvestro Micera (*1972), currently Assistant Professor of Biorobotics at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa and Deputy Assistant Professor at the Automatic Control Laboratory of the ETH Zurich, as Associate Professor of Bioengineering. Silvestro Micera enjoys an excellent reputation as a specialist in neuroprosthetics, particularly in the field of the motor functions of the upper and lower limbs. Instruments of neurorobotics such as hand prostheses can be operated through cortical and peripheral interfaces. With Silvestro Micera's appointment, the EPFL aims to further develop technology in this field.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber (*1969), currently Associate Professor at the Institute of Management Science and Engineering in Stanford, California, as Associate Professor of Production Management. His research focuses on fields such as resource allocation, supply chain contracting, stochastic models, market design, information goods and game theory. He epitomises excellent achievements in teaching and research and has a great number of publications to his credit. With Thomas Weber's appointment, the EPFL intends to further extend its competencies in the field of technology management.

Upon application of the President of the EPFL, Prof. Dr. Patrick Aebischer, the ETH Board has appointed the following individuals as tenure-track assistant professors:

Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Jensen (*1980), currently Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, USA, as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Life Sciences. In his research, Jeffrey Jensen deals with molecular evolution, where he designs mathematical models for the development of the genome on the basis of given populations. Such models are the basis of the computer analysis of genomic diversity. One of his strengths is the development of statistical models that are of immediate use to empirical sciences.

Dr. Jamie Paik (*1979), currently a postdoc at the Harvard Microrobotics Laboratory in Cambridge, USA, as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Mechanical Sciences. In her research, Jamie Paik concentrates on the mechatronic conceptualisation and production for medical microrobots and biologically inspired robots, which are used in surgery, for example. This dedicated researcher focuses on the practical use of the components, primarily with regard to human users. With Jamie Paik's appointment, the EPFL would like to strengthen the field of robot technology.

Upon application of the President of the EPFL, Prof. Dr. Patrick Aebischer, the ETH Board has reappointed the following individuals as tenure-track assistant professors:

Prof. Dr. Matteo del Peraro as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Life Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Bart Deplancke as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Life Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Christina Fragouli as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Communications.

Prof. Dr. Andras Kis as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering.

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Maerkl as Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Bioengineering.

Upon application of the President of the EPFL, Prof. Dr. Patrick Aebischer, the ETH Board has appointed the following individuals as adjunct professors:

Prof. Dr. Romuald Houdré, Prof. Dr. César Pulgarin, Prof. Dr. Donna Testermann

The ETH Board has employed the following person on a permanent basis and with a workload of 80% by means of a contract under public law:

Prof. Franz Graf, Associate Professor of Architecture.

Information

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The Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne and the four application-oriented Federal Research Institutes – the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), the Materials Science and Technology Research Institution (Empa) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) – produce scientific achievements of the highest calibre with approximately 18,500 staff, over 24,000 undergraduate and post-graduate students, and more than 690 professors.

Together, these federal institutes constitute the ETH Domain under the strategic leadership of the ETH Board as the supervisory body. Appointed by the Swiss Federal Council, the ETH Board approves and monitors development plans, draws up management accounting measures and ensures coordination. It prepares budget proposals and accounts for the ETH Domain and coordinates the management of real estate and the preservation of its value and functionality. The ETH Board is responsible for appointments and represents the ETH Domain in relations with federal authorities.