Balgrist
University Hospital

PRESS RELEASE

From Balgrist to the global market: How medical innovation enables international success

Zurich, 26 October 2026 – **The closing of the acquisition of ZuriMED by the global medical technology company Stryker, announced today, Monday, puts the spotlight on a success story from Balgrist as a center of innovation. ZuriMED was founded as a start-up at Balgrist. Its example shows how clinical expertise, innovative ideas and close collaboration between medicine and technology give rise to solutions that win recognition internationally.**

An innovative idea that emerged at Balgrist University Hospital is making the leap onto the global market. Ten years ago, a patient's problem, a clinician's insight and an engineer's idea came together at Balgrist: tendon reconstructions fail because the sutures cut through the soft tissue. The answer was ZuriMED and its product FiberLocker – an innovative solution for mechanical reinforcement in the surgical reconstruction of tendon tears in the shoulder.

ZuriMED is based on research findings from Balgrist University Hospital and received seed funding from Balgrist Beteiligungs AG. The ZuriMED team developed its first prototypes at Balgrist Campus, where physicians, engineers and industry work together under one roof. This shows that what grows at Balgrist out of medical challenges and the determination to find better solutions for the benefit of patients can have an impact far beyond the walls of the hospital. The completion of the acquisition of ZuriMED by Stryker underlines the role of Balgrist as a place where medical innovation originates and finds its way into the international market.

Where medical challenges become innovations
The best ideas often arise where medical challenges are experienced first-hand. At Balgrist University Hospital, highly specialized patient care, scientific research and a commitment to continuous improvement come together. The fact that ZuriMED is now being acquired by Stryker shows that an idea firmly rooted in clinical practice can become a development of international relevance.

Balgrist as a place of innovation
«Innovation begins with an unsolved problem in the treatment of patients. Then it takes research, an innovative spirit and well-orchestrated collaboration. When this interplay produces solutions that succeed globally, it demonstrates the international excellence of a modern orthopedic hospital,» says Prof. Dr. med. Mazda Farshad, Medical Director of Balgrist University Hospital.

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For Balgrist University Hospital, innovation is an important part of its academic mission. The aim is to translate medical knowledge into tangible improvements for patients. The completion of the acquisition by Stryker marks an important step for ZuriMED and exemplifies a clinical and research hub where medical challenges give rise to new ideas that find their way into clinical application and onto international markets.

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About Balgrist University Hospital
Balgrist University Hospital is a specialized center of excellence for the diagnostic work-up, treatment, and follow-up care of damage to the musculoskeletal system. Interdisciplinary services combine the fields of orthopedics, paraplegiology, rheumatology and physical medicine, sports medicine, neuro-urology, chiropractic, radiology, and anesthesiology. The broad spectrum of interlinked medical treatment is complemented by nursing care, social, insurance-legal and psychological counselling, as well as integrated measures for rehabilitation and return to work. All these activities aim to provide our patients with the best possible support.

Balgrist University Hospital is setting internationally recognized standards in orthopedic research and education with its Balgrist Campus and OR-X research infrastructures.

The privately owned Balgrist University Hospital is operated by the Swiss Balgrist Association (Schweizerischer Verein Balgrist).

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