# SWISS BIOTECH SUCCESS STORIES

## Celebrating and honoring major achievements



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Dimethyl fumarate:

The formula for solving a complex problem can seem quite simple – in retrospect.

# Dr. Hans-Peter Strebel

Hans-Peter Strebel – also known as HP – represents 40 years of successful research and drug development. He discovered a drug against multiple sclerosis (MS) in an exciting detour. The result has so far benefitted more than 600,000 patients worldwide. Later he invested part of the company's profits in his favorite sports club and in a remarkable scientific competence center for top athletes.

#### Studying and founding Fumapharm

Hans-Peter Strebel studied at the ETH Zurich and the University of Geneva. After his dissertation at ETH Zurich, he received his doctorate in natural sciences in 1978. He then founded the virtual company Fumapharm with just a small team of three other scientists in 1983.

#### Psoriasis Research and Fumaderm approval

As a result of research into an active ingredient for a Psoriasis patient, the Fumapharm team found a possible active ingredient. This began a intense research that ultimately led to the approval of the Psoriasis drug Fumaderm in 1994.

#### Transition from Fumaderm to Tecfidera

Fumapharm subsequently invested significant time and resources researching the mechanisms of action of individual components of the drug, which led to the discovery that one of the active ingredients, Dimethyl fumarate, could also be used to treat MS.

#### A long journey towards the first approval to treat Psoriasis

- Research based on mixture of fumaric acid esters, active ingredient identified: Dimethylfumarate
- After 11 years of research, approval in Germany to treat Psoriasis in 1994 (Dimethyl fumarate combined with three other fumaric acid esters (FAEs) approved in Germany as an oral therapy for Psoriasis), under the brand name Fumaderm



#### Second application as treatment for Multiple Sclerosis

- Initial clinical research on the use of dimethyl fumarate for the treatment of multiple sclerosis was conducted by Fumapharm in collaboration with Biogen Idec
- Fumapharm was subsequently acquired by Biogen Idec in 2006 for an undisclosed amount
- Biogen continued developing its oral formulation of dimethyl fumarate from Fumapharm under the code name BG-12; it was approved under the trade name Tecfidera for the treatment of adults with relapsing forms of MS in March 2013



What started as a four-person company, Fumapharm, based on a mixture of unknown ingredients, led to the approval of valuable medicine to treat Psoriasis and Multiple Sclerosis.

#### Vision: Helping is supporting

As a humanitarian, Hans-Peter Strebel does everything to bring the greatest possible benefit to humanity. And in his private life too, what motivates him above all is: "Giving it back to society". He uses a part of his privat wealth to support the athletic center OYM (in Zug, Switzerland) and founded the sports foundation OYM in 2021.

#### Award winner 2024

Hans-Peter Strebel's life principle:

Never give up! You have to trust your thoughts.





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### SUCCESS CATEGORIES

- ★ Completed achievement with lasting impact
- ★ Scientific breakthrough
- ★ New technology
- ★ Strong impact on society
- ★ Product approval and sustainable revenues

- ★ Important IP, innovative deal-making, acquisition
- ★ Involvement of one or more Swiss citizens
- ★ Swiss-based company/institution
- ★ Creation of jobs in Switzerland
- ★ Other aspect with a direct link to Switzerland
- \* Swissness: Think global, made in Switzerland



