Blaise Genton has broad experience with the development of vaccines for malaria and helped develop infrastructure at Lausanne University Hospital to facilitate the testing of new products. Due to this expertise, Genton was approached to conduct an accelerated phase 1 trial for an Ebola vaccine. Even though he did not have funding, Genton immediately dropped his current projects and started preparations. He hired additional staff, and he and his colleagues and consortium partners wrote the project proposal in only 10 days.

“The project was conceived under time pressure and for all involved, it was clear that securing funding was top priority.”

Valuable federal funding
Once the EU had accepted the project proposal, Genton was able to profit from Euresearch’s network and direct contacts with the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation in order to secure funding for his part in the project. “Euresearch’s ability to mobilise support on short notice as well as their knowledge of procedures, framing and terminology is indispensable, not only in this case when time was scarce but also more generally for junior researchers wanting to take the next step in their career.”

International recognition
The nature of the project attracted a lot of media interest and offered a great opportunity to get local visibility and international recognition for the quality of research done by the institution. “We never had media coverage like this before and the institution was not very well known. Many were surprised to hear that we were carrying out these trials and participating in an international project like this.”
“Euresearch’s ability to mobilise support on short notice, as well as their knowledge of procedures, framing and terminology is indispensable”

Prof. Blaise Genton  
Lausanne University Hospital, University Medical Polyclinic, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

**CONTENT SUMMARY**

The Horizon 2020 project EbolaVac aims to develop a vaccine against Ebola as quickly as possible in order to protect the population and aid workers in affected areas where the risk of infection is highest. In this project, coordinated by the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, the Lausanne University Hospital (Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois, CHUV) contributes to the development of the vaccine by applying their expertise and making their infrastructure available for clinical trials.

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

- **Project Name**: EbolaVac
- **Research Area**: Clinical Trial
- **Organisations**: GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Belgium (Coordinator) and 3 partners
- **Start Date – End Date**: 07.10.2014 – 07.10.2017
- **Duration**: 3 years
- **Project Cost**: €19.86 million
- **Project Funding**: €19.86 million
- **Programme**: Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge: Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
- **More Information**: [http://ebolavac.eu](http://ebolavac.eu)

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**Euresearch** is the Swiss network mandated by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation providing targeted information, hands-on advice and transnational partnering related to European research and innovation programmes.

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