

# OPEN CALL



## UEG-Gen.

## Assem.

# 2014-2017



**President Rolf GRAF**  
 Department of Surgery, Div. of  
 Visceral & Transplant Surgery  
 University Hospital  
 Rämistrasse 100  
 8091 Zurich  
 Switzerland  
 Tel: +41-44-2552071  
 Fax: +41-44-2554449

**Secretary Peter HEGYI**  
 First Department of Medicine  
 Faculty of Medicine  
 University of Szeged  
 8-10 Koranyi fasor  
 H-6720, Szeged  
 Hungary  
 Tel: +36-62-545200  
 Fax: +36-62-545185

**Treasurer Rolf GRAF**  
 Department of Surgery, Div. of  
 Visceral & Transplant Surgery  
 University Hospital  
 Rämistrasse 100  
 8091 Zurich  
 Switzerland  
 Tel: +41-44-2552071  
 Fax: +41-44-2554449

# APPLICATION FORM

**for European Pancreatic Club (EPC) representative  
 in the General Assembly of the United European Gastroenterology (UEG)**

1	<b>Personal data</b>	Name: Rolf Graf Username ( <a href="http://www.e-p-c.org">www.e-p-c.org</a> ): Graf Country: Switzerland National Society: Deutscher Pankreasclub
2	<b>Membership</b>	List of years when the applicant was member of EPC: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 (previously IAP member)  List of years when the applicant attended the annual EPC meeting: 1996, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012  List of years when the applicant submitted (as first or last author) an abstract(s) for the annual EPC meeting: 1997, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 invited talks: 2002, 2005
3	<b>Publications</b>	List of the best 5 original/review papers in international journals: Last 5 years  1) Gukasjan R, Raptis DR, Schulz H-U, Halangk W, Graf R Pancreatic stone protein predicts outcome in patient with peritonitis at the intensive care unit. Critical Care Medicine (2012) 41:1027-36  2) Seleznik GM, Reding T, Romrig F, Saito Y, Mildner A, Segerer S, Sun LK, Regenass S, Lech M, Anders HJ, McHugh D, Kumagi T, Hiasa Y, Lackner C, Haybaeck J, Angst E, Perren A, Balmer ML, Slack E, Macpherson A, Manz M, Weber A, Browning JL, Arkan MC, Rüllicke T, Aguzzi A, Prinz M, Graf R*, Heikenwalder M*. *these authors contributed equally. Lymphotoxin $\beta$ Receptor Signaling Promotes Development of Autoimmune Pancreatitis. Gastroenterology (2012) 143:1361-74  3) Sonda S, Silva A, Grabliauskaite K, Saponara E, Weber A, Jang J-H, A Züllig R, Bain M, Reding Th, Hehl A, Graf R. Serotonin regulates amylase secretion and acinar cell damage during murine pancreatitis GUT (2012).10.1136/gutjnl-2011-301724

		<p>4) Reding Th, Sun L.-K, Hersberger M, Seifert B, Bimmler D, Graf R Inflammation-dependent expression of SPARC during development of chronic pancreatitis in WBN/Kob rats and a microarray gene expression analysis. Physiological Genomics (2009) 38:196-204</p> <p>5) Sun LK, Reding T, Bain M, Heikenwalder M, Bimmler D, Graf R. Prostaglandin E2 modulates TNF<math>\alpha</math>-induced MCP-1 synthesis in pancreatic acinar cells in a PKA-dependent manner. Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol. (2007) 293:G1196-204</p>
4	<b>Previous positions at EPC or UEG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treasurer EPC since 2007</li> <li>- UEG General Assembly Member: 2010-2011</li> </ul>

The applicant confirms that she/he

- has read the Open call for UEG General Assembly Member position and fully accept its content
- has adequate time resources for volunteer work
- has good command of spoken and written English
- will represent the EPC at the UEG General Assembly
- will contact the Secretary before the General Assembly meeting in order to discuss the interests of EPC
- attend all of the UEG General Assembly meetings
- will be available for the EPC council meeting during the annual EPC meeting in order to discuss the UEG matters during the period in which he/she represents EPC at the UEG General Assembly
- declare that he fully accepts the UEG Committee Guidelines available on the webpage of UEG and EPC

Name

Rolf Graf



Date

April 22, 2013

## Application as an EPC delegate for the General Assembly of UEG

At the end of 1994, I joined the pancreatic research world after having spent substantial time in parasitic vector research (Yellow fever mosquitoes). In our Zurich pancreas group, we focused on aspects of chronic pancreatitis, particularly on the controversial role of lithostatine (Pancreatic stone protein). The susceptibility of this protein to tryptic cleavage and its implications was a fascinating entry into the biomedical research of the pancreas.

Stepping into a new field with very limited credibility in that area was not easy. However, despite the competitive nature of research, I found friends in the pancreatic community who supported our efforts. This was further solidified by the then already retired Dean of the Medical Faculty at the University of Zurich, Prof. Rudolf Ammann.

Initially, I tended to visit either the annual meetings of the EPC, alternating with the APA meetings. Both meetings, organized by their respective societies, provided an excellent frame in which one could find peers with a common interest. With time, while getting to know the EPC better, I realized that the EPC went much further to propagate ideas and support training of its junior members.

This was in a time when I was approached to apply as a candidate for the treasurer position. After my election in 2005, I started my turn in 2007 as EPC treasurer in the Council. This function gave me a lot of insights into the creative opportunities to form the future of EPC. It came with the realization that the EPC is in a very strong position among the various international pancreatic societies. Thus interlinking EPC's strength with the opportunities of UEG's platform should make our society even stronger with the common goal to provide evidence-based rationales for therapies of patients with pancreatic disease. To achieve this, we need to promote pancreatic research as an interesting but challenging career entry for young medical scientists. Therefore, the following are the starting points (Mission statement) of activities within the body of the UEG General Assembly to represent the EPC and support its interests.

1) The EPC as founding member has had a strong position with its votes but had an orphan image when it came to represent its basic and clinical science. In the recent past, efforts to increase the visibility and presence in the UEG have been an important task. I would strongly emphasize and try to further develop the visibility of the EPC.

2) The financial benefits from the UEG are quite substantial. The annual 'baseline' support should be maintained to secure our vision to support young investigators with travel grants and EPC-fellowships.

3) The maintenance of competitive funding sources for training support by the UEG ([www.ueg.eu/education](http://www.ueg.eu/education)) should be the second cornerstone to secure our societies activities: Annual EPC-meetings, Symposia, Postgraduate courses and fellowships. These financial opportunities should be used by the EPC Council and the presidents in charge of organizing the annual EPC meetings. The value of these activities has to be reflected back to the UEG.

4) Having seen the concept 'translational science' grow in the last few years, I realized that its goal to bridge the gap between basic and clinical research has not been readily reached as both basic and clinical research grew apart even more. Alternatively, I would try to integrate basic and clinical science more often. This could be done in many if not most fields. Often, basic scientists don't realize the issues that are faced by clinicians. These issues could be addressed in experimental models and give mechanistic insights. Hence, sessions combining clinical aspects (e.g. resistance to chemotherapy) and basic aspects (e.g. genetics of cancer) could be easily integrated.

5) In the past, participation at the UEG-week was associated with prohibitive costs, particularly for those who cannot receive industrial sponsor support. To ease the financial burden one could propose that the best submitted abstracts (e.g. the five top ranked) from our society could be awarded with free registration. It might also be worthwhile to explore whether active members of the 15 Societies should receive a discount for participation at UEG week.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Rolf Graf

Name	Rolf GRAF
Birth date	25. January 1955
Citizenship	Heiden AR Switzerland
Spouse	Theresia Reding Graf (11.6.57)
Children	Melanie (4.6.92), Samuel (7.7.94)
Professional address	Dept. Visceral & Transplantation Surgery University Hospital Zürich Rämistrasse 100 8091 Zürich 044 255 2071 rolf.graf@usz.ch

---

### Education

Matura Typ C	1974
University Zürich (Biology)	1976-81

### Academic degrees

Master of Science	1981
PhD (Dr. phil. II) (with honors University Zürich)	1986
Habilitation ( <i>venia legendi</i> University Zürich)	2002
Titularprofessor	2010

### Postdoctoral education

Postdoctoral fellow (SNF) Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Tx	1987-89
Research Associate, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Tx	1989-90
Research Associate supported by University Zürich	1990-91

### Professional employment

Senior Research Associate (Dept. Zoology, University Zürich)	1992-
Lecturer	1991-1994
Senior Research Associate (University Hospital Zürich)	1994-2007
Wissenschaftlicher Abteilungsleiter	2007-

### Functions

Co-head of Division of Surgical Research	2001-
Head Research Division Visceral & Transplantation Surgery	2002-
Member of the board of directors of the Center for Clinical Research (ZKF)	2004-
Member of the board of directors of the Transplantation Center	2007-
Treasurer European Pancreatic Club	2007-
President European Pancreatic Club	2012/2013

### Grants awarded as Principal investigator

1987	Postdoctoral fellow grant from the SNF CHF 37'500
1988	Extension of fellowship from SNF CHF 42'000

1990	Grant Kommission Förderung des wiss.Nachwuchses des Kantons ZH CHF 40'000
1990	Stiftung für Wissenschaftliche Forschung Universität Zürich CHF 10'000
1991-1994	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds CHF 147'000
1994	Forschungsbeitrag der Geigy-Jubiläumsstiftung CHF 35'000
1998-2002	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (Graf R., Bimmler D. & Frick T.W) CHF 247'500
2002-2005	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (Graf R. & Bimmler D.) CHF 197'000
2006-2010	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (Graf R., Bimmler D. & Heikenwälder M.) CHF 229'000.-
2006	Grant from the 'Helen Bieber-Stiftung' CHF 10'000
2003-2009	Forschungsbeiträge der 'Amelie Waring Stiftung' CHF 70'000 p.a
2006-2008	Grant from the 'Velux-Stiftung' CHF 117'500
2009	Grant from the 'Kurt und Senta Hermann Stiftung' CHF 25'000
2009	Grant from the 'Stiftung zur Krebsbekämpfung' CHF 20'000
2009-2011	Grant from the 'Gottfried und Julia Bangerter-Rhyner Stiftung' CHF 150'000
2010-2013	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (Graf R. & Heikenwälder M.) CHF 331'000.-
2012-2015	Grant from the 'Gebert-Rüf Stiftung' CHF 360'000 (Graf R., Sonda S. & Raptis DR.)
2013-2016	Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (Graf R. & Sonda S.) CHF 401'000.-

**Total: CHF 2'980'000 (EUR 2'400'000)**

### Publications

116 original peer-reviewed publications  
16 reviews and editorials

Selected publications:

1. Gukasjan R, Raptis DA, Schulz HU, Halangk W, Graf R. Pancreatic Stone Protein Predicts Outcome in Patients With Peritonitis in the ICU\*. *Crit Care Med* 2013;41:1027-36.
2. Sonda S, Silva AB, Grabliauskaite K, Saponara E, Weber A, Jang JH, Zullig RA, Bain M, Graf TR, Hehl AB, Graf R. Serotonin regulates amylase secretion and acinar cell damage during murine pancreatitis. *Gut* 2012.
3. Seleznik GM, Reding T, Romrig F, Saito Y, Mildner A, Segerer S, Sun LK, Regenass S, Lech M, Anders HJ, McHugh D, Kumagi T, Hiasa Y, Lackner C, Haybaeck J, Angst E, Perren A, Balmer ML, Slack E, Macpherson A, Manz MG, Weber A, Browning JL, Arkan MC, Rulicke T, Aguzzi A, Prinz M, Graf R, Heikenwälder M. Lymphotoxin beta Receptor Signaling Promotes Development of Autoimmune Pancreatitis. *Gastroenterology* 2012;143:1361-74.
4. Marz-Weiss P, Kunz D, Bimmler D, Berkemeier C, Ozbek S, Dimitriades-Schmutz B, Haybaeck J, Otten U, Graf R. Expression of pancreatitis-associated protein after traumatic brain injury: a mechanism potentially contributing to neuroprotection in human brain. *Cell Mol Neurobiol* 2011;31:1141-9.
5. Li L, Bachem MG, Zhou S, Sun Z, Chen J, Siech M, Bimmler D, Graf R. Pancreatitis-associated protein inhibits human pancreatic stellate cell MMP-1 and -2, TIMP-1 and -2 secretion and RECK expression. *Pancreatology* 2009;9:99-110.
6. Lesurtel M, Graf R, Aleil B, Walther DJ, Tian Y, Jochum W, Gachet C, Bader M, Clavien PA. Platelet-derived serotonin mediates liver regeneration. *Science* 2006;312:104-7.
7. Bimmler D, Schiesser M, Perren A, Scheele G, Angst E, Meili S, Ammann R, Graf R. Coordinate regulation of PSP/reg and PAP isoforms as a family of secretory stress proteins in an animal model of chronic pancreatitis. *J Surg Res* 2004;118:122-35.
8. Meili S, Graf R, Perren A, Schiesser M, Bimmler D. Secretory apparatus assessed by analysis of pancreatic secretory stress protein expression in a rat model of chronic pancreatitis. *Cell Tissue Res* 2003;312:291-9.
9. Graf R, Klauser S, Fukuoka SI, Schiesser M, Bimmler D. The bifunctional rat pancreatic secretory trypsin inhibitor/monitor peptide provides protection against premature activation of pancreatic juice. *Pancreatology* 2003;3:195-206.

10. Graf R, Schiesser M, Lussi A, Went P, Scheele GA, Bimmler D. Coordinate regulation of secretory stress proteins (PSP/reg, PAP I, PAP II, and PAP III) in the rat exocrine pancreas during experimental acute pancreatitis. *J Surg Res* 2002;105:136-44.
11. Graf R, Schiesser M, Bimmler D. Increased secretion of the pancreatic secretory trypsin inhibitor (PSTI-I, monitor peptide) during development of chronic pancreatitis in the WBN/Kob rat. *Pancreatology* 2002;2:108-15.
12. Graf R, Schiesser M, Scheele GA, Marquardt K, Frick TW, Ammann RW, Bimmler D. A family of 16-kDa pancreatic secretory stress proteins form highly organized fibrillar structures upon tryptic activation. *J Biol Chem* 2001;276:21028-38.
13. Graf R, Mattera R, Codina J, Estes MK, Birnbaumer L. A truncated recombinant alpha subunit of Gi3 with a reduced affinity for beta gamma dimers and altered guanosine 5'-3-O-(thio)triphosphate binding. *J Biol Chem* 1992;267:24307-14.
14. Graf R, Mattera R, Codina J, Evans T, Ho YK, Estes MK, Birnbaumer L. Studies on the interaction of alpha subunits of GTP-binding proteins with beta gamma dimers. *Eur J Biochem* 1992;210:609-19.
15. Graf R, Codina J, Birnbaumer L. Peptide inhibitors of ADP-ribosylation by pertussis toxin are substrates with affinities comparable to those of the trimeric GTP-binding proteins. *Mol Pharmacol* 1992;42:760-4.
16. Graf R, Lea AO, Briegel H. A temporal profile of the endocrine control of trypsin synthesis in the yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. *J Insect Physiol* 1998;44:451-454.
17. Ackermann U, Graf R. Nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of a putative asparagine synthetase in the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* (L.). *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1998;1383:179-82.
18. Graf R, Neuenschwander S, Brown MR, Ackermann U. Insulin-mediated secretion of ecdysteroids from mosquito ovaries and molecular cloning of the insulin receptor homologue from ovaries of bloodfed *Aedes aegypti*. *Insect Mol Biol* 1997;6:151-63.
19. Graf R, Boehlen P, Briegel H. Structural diversity of trypsin from different mosquito species feeding on vertebrate blood. *Experientia* 1991;47:603-9.
20. Graf R, Raikhel AS, Brown MR, Lea AO, Briegel H. Mosquito trypsin: immunocytochemical localization in the midgut of blood-fed *Aedes aegypti* (L.). *Cell Tissue Res* 1986;245:19-27.