

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to attend the press conference announcing:

The launch of the Swiss Polar Institute and the Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE) Project

**Monday, 18 April 2016 from 2pm to 4pm
at the Medienzentrum Bundeshaus, Bundesgasse 8-12, Bern.**

The newly founded **Swiss Polar Institute (SPI)** will lead an ambitious marine expedition around Antarctica that will leave from South Africa at the end of 2016. The polar vessel will carry 22 international teams of scientists, which will be announced at this press conference.

The Swiss Polar Institute is a Swiss consortium of scientific institutions. Its aim is to study the earth's poles and extreme environments and to explore crucial issues that the scientific and political communities face in the area of climate change.

The Institute is an initiative of EPFL and Frederik Paulsen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ferring, and includes the following founding members and originators: EPFL, the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), ETH Zurich, the University of Bern and Editions Paulsen. It is officially supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

The Institute's first project, the **Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE)**, will begin at the end of 2016. This major project is being financed by Ferring Pharmaceuticals and organized in conjunction with polar institutes from six countries. It represents a three-month marine expedition around Antarctica. Onboard, researchers from around 30 countries will work on 22 projects in a number of fields, including glaciology, oceanography, marine biology and the impact of pollution.

Press conference schedule:

- 1:45pm Doors open
- 2pm Philippe Gillet, Vice President for Academic Affairs at EPFL
- 2:15pm Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation
- 2:20pm Frederik Paulsen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ferring
- 2:30pm Thomas Stocker, Professor of climatology at the University of Bern
- 2:45pm Presentation of the ACE project winners – representatives of the ACE project
- 3:15pm Q&A

Attendees at the press conference will include: Martin Täuber, Rector of the University of Bern, Konrad Steffen, Director of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Detlef Günther, Vice President of ETH Zurich (ETHZ), and Patrick Aebischer, President of EPFL, along with Hubertus Fischer, President of the Swiss Committee on Polar and High Altitude Research.

Live streaming will be available here: medias.epfl.ch