

Press release

A change in leadership at the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Bern, 4 December 2019

Having been elected president of Jacobs University in Bremen, Professor Antonio Loprieno is handing over the office of a+ president to Professor Marcel Tanner, the vice president of the Academies of Arts and Sciences and president of the Swiss Academy of Sciences. Antonio Loprieno will continue to serve as president of the All European Academies (ALLEA).

Professor Loprieno stated: “I remain committed to the scientific community in Switzerland and will continue to strengthen the ties between Switzerland and Europe in my role as president of the All European Academies. Yet after much consideration, I have decided to step down as president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences as of 31 January 2020 in order to focus more fully on my new role as president of Jacobs University.” Jacobs University is a private English-language university with a residential campus. It provides talented young students of all nationalities, religions, and economic backgrounds with an education that prepares them to take on social responsibility.

Antonio Loprieno was elected president of the Academies in October 2017. Together with the Academies’ board of directors, he developed the first joint multi-annual programme for a future global budget. In addition, he has been an active proponent of science diplomacy; time and again he advocated in Brussels and an expanding Europe for the importance of Swiss scientific research and institutions in an international context. In commenting on his departure, Professor Loprieno underscores that his time at the Academies has been rewarding and he considers it a privilege to have been able to briefly accompany the Academies during their current intensive transformation process.

As vice president of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences and president of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, Marcel Tanner very clearly understands the needs and concerns of the diverse academic community that is brought together through the Academies. He also understands that respect, openness, and the willingness to work across disciplines is needed to address the challenges facing society – an approach he demonstrated as the director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute through his decades of research and implementation partnerships with the public and private sectors in Europe, Africa, and Asia. As president ad interim, Marcel Tanner will lead the Academies during the critical period of preparation for implementing their 2021–24 multi-annual programme.

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The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences are an association consisting of the four scientific academies in Switzerland: the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS), the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), and the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW). Along with these four academies, the Academies also include the TA-SWISS and Science et Cité centres of excellence and additional scientific networks. The Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences connect the sciences at the regional, national, and international levels. Moreover, the Academies represent scientific communities – irrespective of their related institution or subject – both within and across disciplines. As well as having a long-term focus, the Academies' network is committed to scientific excellence. In addition, the Academies advise stakeholders from politics and society on science-based issues that are relevant to society.

<http://swiss-academies.ch>