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## *MEDIA RELEASE*

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### **New diabetes research center to be established in Berne**

Burgdorf, 27 June 2017, 7a.m. - Work on setting up a diabetes research center in Berne is already to start this year. The focus of the Diabetes Center Berne (DCB) is on unsolved problems in the treatment of diabetes mellitus. The center will cooperate closely with the University Hospital for Diabetology, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine & Metabolism (UDEM) of the Insel group. The DCB will move into the new building on the premises of the Insel hospital after opening of the sitem-insel translation center. Dr. h.c. Willy Michel, Chairman of the Board at the Ypsomed Group, will provide the sum of 50 million Swiss francs for this venture from private means.

Diabetes is one of the biggest global endemic diseases. Today, some 400 million people live with diabetes, of which every tenth person injects insulin daily. According to estimates by the International Diabetes Federation, over 600 million people will be affected by diabetes worldwide by 2040. To avoid secondary diseases, to simplify therapy and to improve the quality of life of people living with diabetes, therapy needs to be automated further and metabolic adjustment improved. Therefore, blood glucose measurement also needs to be simplified here.

The available capital of 50 million Swiss francs is to be used in part for the research and development of new solutions and therapeutic approaches in diabetes, and in part for supporting start-ups conducting research and development in the diabetes environment.

The Diabetes Center Berne will cooperate closely with the University Hospital for Diabetology, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine & Metabolism (UDEM) of the Insel group. This is specifically concerned with translation, in other words, the transfer from research to the clinic and from the clinic to the product. The reason being, that new approaches must be tested from an early stage in human subjects. The sitem-insel, which is presently under construction, presents ideal framework conditions as the proximity to the Insel Hospital and clinical research is elementary. UDEM Director, Prof. Dr. med. Christoph Stettler, regards the cooperation as a major opportunity: "The Berne location has tremendous potential for making progress in diabetology due to its close cooperation between the Insel Hospital, sitem-insel, the newly created DCB and the ARTORG Center of Bern University. With the diabetes research center we will be able to attract colleagues from across the world to Berne to simplify and improve treatment."

For further information regarding the **Diabetes Center Berne Foundation**, <http://www.diabetescenterberne.com>, please contact Benjamin Overney, Head of Investor & Public Relations at Ypsomed Holding AG, at the telephone number +41 34 424 41 59 or by e-mail ([benjamin.overney@ypsomed.com](mailto:benjamin.overney@ypsomed.com)).

For further information regarding the **sitem-insel AG**, <http://www.sitem-insel.ch>, please contact Prof. Dr. med., em. Felix Frey, Managing Director sitem-insel AG, at the telephone number +41 31 632 58 41 or by e-mail ([felix.frey@sitem-insel.ch](mailto:felix.frey@sitem-insel.ch)).

For further information regarding the **University Clinic for Diabetology, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine & Metabolism (UDEM)**, <http://www.endokrinologie.insel.ch>, please contact Prof. Dr. med. Christoph Stettler, Clinic Director and Chief Physician UDEM, via e-mail ([christoph.stettler@insel.ch](mailto:christoph.stettler@insel.ch)).

For further information regarding the **ARTORG Center for Biomedical Engineering Research**, <http://www.artorg.unibe.ch/> (only English), please contact Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Weber, Chair Image-guided Therapies, via e-mail ([artorg@artorg.unibe.ch](mailto:artorg@artorg.unibe.ch)).

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