

To the ENT residents in Switzerland,

With this letter Jeroen van Schaik, a second year resident from Basel, and Hannes Silvester Hefty, a first year resident from Bern, are applying for the position of president and vice-president, respectively, of the Young ORL.

Jeroen is originally from the Netherlands, where he finished his studies in 2019 and a PhD on innovative methods for the detection of head and neck cancer in 2022. During his studies he has been active in the representation of the first, second, and third year of the Master students and has also been chairman of the local student triathlon club. Similarly, he assumed the role of general secretary of the Young ORL in January. This role gave him insights into the design of the different residency programs and an overview of how other clinics in Switzerland have organized themselves. With the upcoming implementation of the EPA assessment tool, his Dutch background may come in usefully, as this system is already in use in the Netherlands.

Initially from Basel, Hannes' curiosity for the use of technical sciences in medicine brought him first to ETH, later to the University of Zurich, and finally to Bern, to complete his residency. Since he has always enjoyed the social aspects of associations and also believes in their vital role as a political and social entity, he participated during his entire studies. First as a board member of the medical students association of the ETH, where they mainly focused on networking among medical students, but also with other courses of studies. At the same time, he was a member of the Unterrichtskommission of the ETH where they helped shape and adapt the new curriculum of ETH. Later he was in charge of recruiting speakers and organizing the program for the 2020 swiss medical students convention in Zurich. After that he became, and still is, a board member of the ETH MED Alumni. There they focus on connecting alumni with not only other alumni and medical students, but also other health care professionals.

With Jeroens YoungORL board experience, his knowledge of the EPA assessment tool and his prior activity as chairman together with Hannes' diverse and extensive experience as a board member, we believe to be the ideal duo for the next chapter of the Young ORL.

The Repetitorium and Young ORL academy are in our opinion promising additions to the curriculum that provide relevant knowledge, and in the future possibly skills, to our residents. Our goal is to further refine these programs, ensuring they become an essential and invaluable part of every resident's education. With the programs we aim to further enhance the clinical competencies of all residents and encourage the exchange of knowledge between the training facilities. Understanding the challenges new residents face, we want to develop a comprehensive starting guide tailored to their needs. This guide will ideally serve as a vital resource, offering detailed information on administrative procedures, clinical guidelines and how to survive the beginning of residency. It might also include tips for effective time management and strategies for maintaining work-life balance. By providing this support, we aim to facilitate a smoother transition for new residents, enabling them to focus more on their professional development and less on administrative hurdles. To foster a more interconnected and collaborative training environment, we aim to develop a new platform that facilitates the exchange of residents between different locations within Switzerland and potentially across Europe. This platform will enable residents to gain diverse clinical experiences, broaden their professional networks, and maybe even learn from different healthcare systems. By promoting mobility and collaboration, we can enrich the training experience and enhance the overall quality of care provided by our future specialists.

Yours sincerely,



Jeroen van Schaik



Hannes Hefty