

Geneva, 27th November 2023

Period of transition at the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG)

BERTRAND LEVRAT ANNOUNCES A NEW CHAPTER IN HIS CAREER

The Director General of the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG) announces his decision to take up a new professional challenge as « Group Chief Operating Officer » of the group Mediclinic. Bertrand Levrat will continue to fulfil his responsibilities at the HUG until 31st May 2024. Pierre Maudet, State Councillor, and François Canonica, Chairman of the HUG Board of directors, jointly express their gratitude towards Bertrand Levrat for his exceptional commitment to the staff and the community.

Bertrand Levrat has held the position of HUG Director General since [1st June 2013](#), marking a period of profound change within the institution. Under his leadership, the University Hospital of Geneva, leading Swiss university hospital, has been transformed by significant reforms aimed at strengthening excellence and innovation in the service of patients, research and teaching.

Pierre Maudet, State Councillor, pays tribute to Mr. Levrat's work: "I would like to sincerely thank the Director General, Bertrand Levrat, for his excellent work throughout his mandate. Under his leadership, numerous infrastructure projects have been developed, placing Geneva at the forefront of innovation. What's more, his stewardship of the institution during the COVID period was truly remarkable. I wish him all the best in his new role and look forward to counting on his skills until the arrival of his successor".

François Canonica, Chairman of the HUG Board of directors, expresses his gratitude towards Bertrand Levrat, underlining his exceptional leadership in shaping the HUG into a model hospital. "It is with deep emotion that I learned of Bertrand Levrat's new career orientation. I thank him warmly for his commitment towards our institution which, through him, has become a standard for hospitals dedicated to their community."

A remarkable vision for the hospital's future

Over the last decade, Bertrand Levrat has led the implementation of several remarkable initiatives. He initiated the [reorganization](#) of the medical departments, one better optimized for today's care trajectories and the new challenges of medicine. In terms of infrastructure, he commissioned the [Gustave Julliard building](#), the new [Maternity Hospital](#), the [Maison de l'enfance et de l'adolescence](#), the Geriatric and [Adult Emergency Departments](#) and the [Center for Innovation](#).

Bertrand Levrat has also led a far-reaching reform of the hospital's human resources policy, with a determined focus on employee well-being. An initiative that bears witness to a modern and humane vision of social relations within the institution.

His ambitious structural reform has secured the HUG's financial equilibrium, bringing [its budget](#) to CHF 2.3 billion.

Bertrand Levrat invested significantly in [sustainability](#) to reduce the hospital's carbon footprint, integrating environmental concerns into institutional management and positioning the HUG as a leader in Switzerland and internationally.

A « huge privilege » to work alongside the staff of the HUG

“Throughout these years, I was privileged to gain the full trust and solid support of the *Grand Conseil*, the *Conseil d'Etat*, the members of the *Conseil d'Etat* and the Department of health” underlines Bertrand Levrat. He expresses deep gratitude towards the hospital staff, stressing what a privilege it has been to work alongside them. “I am grateful for everything that I have been given”, he adds.

Under his leadership, the HUG has opened up onto to the city, forming durable and solid partnerships with Geneva's public and private healthcare network, the universities of Geneva and Lausanne, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), and the Lausanne University Hospital. Bertrand Levrat contributed to the development of the Campus Biotech and facilitated the emergence of numerous research projects, notably in oncology, bringing hope of new treatments for patients.

The creation of [Fondation privée des HUG](#) was a major milestone enabling numerous projects to come to life thanks to the support of generous donors and partners who confirmed their trust through donations totalling over CHF 250 million.

Finally, during [the COVID crisis](#), the exemplary management of Bertrand Levrat with the entire staff, demonstrated the institution's ability to courageously, and with unparalleled agility, tackle a sustained major crisis.

Period of transition at the HUG

The HUG will now enter a period of transition as Bertrand Levrat will continue to serve as Director General until 31st May 2024. The recruitment process for his successor will be initiated by the HUG [Board of directors](#) in parallel.

End

Note for editors – Bio of Bertrand Levrat, Director General of the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG)

Director General of the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG) since 1st June 2013, Bertrand Levrat leads the largest university hospital in Switzerland, which includes eight public hospitals, two clinics, the Maison de l'enfance et de l'adolescence, and forty outpatient clinics across the Canton of Geneva. He oversees an institution of nearly 13,000 employees.

Holder of a law degree from the University of Geneva and qualified as a lawyer, Bertrand Levrat joined the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1994. Over eight years, he held various roles abroad and in Geneva, including serving as legal advisor for Asia, Latin America, and at the United Nations in New York.

Returning to Geneva, Bertrand Levrat dedicated his expertise to social action. Initially as Deputy Director of the General Directorate for Social Action from 2001, and later assuming the leadership of the Hospice Général, where he implemented reforms and revitalized the organization. Under his leadership, the institution achieved a sustained financial balance. After more than a decade of social commitment, Bertrand Levrat joined the University Hospital of Geneva.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Bertrand Levrat is active in various organizations, including serving as President of the Swiss University Medicine Association. He is also a member of the Executive Board of the International Hospital Federation (IHF), the Board of Trustees of the Campus Biotech, the Board of Trustees of the Wyss Center for Bio and Neuro-engineering, and the Advisory Board of the Geneva School of Economics and Management. Additionally, he is a member of the ISREC Foundation, dedicated to experimental cancer research, and the Foundation for Research in Medicine and Biology.

Recognized for his contributions, Bertrand Levrat was honored as an Officer in the French national order of the *Légion d'Honneur*. He, along with the HUG management, received the University of Geneva Medal, the Innovation Prize from the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the cantonal award for sustainable development.

Married and father of two, Bertrand Levrat is an enthusiastic amateur guitarist who enjoys running, sailing, and high-altitude hiking.

For more information

HUG, Press office

presse-hug@hcuge.ch

+41 22 372 37 37

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The HUG: Care, Teaching, and leading-edge Research

The Geneva University Hospital (HUG) comprises [eight public hospitals and two clinics](#). Their missions are to provide health care to the community in all medical specialties, to help train physicians and health professionals, and to conduct medical and clinical research. The HUG operate as a national reference centre for [influenza](#), [emerging viral infections](#), [meningococcus](#), and transplant immunology, and are the [national reference laboratory for histocompatibility](#). They are also a WHO Collaborating Centre [in six areas](#), as well as [Centres of Excellence](#) in a number of sectors. The HUG treat 260,000 patients each year, with a capacity of 2,000 hospital beds, and employ 12.788 people.

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