

STRATEGY 2023–2027

INTRODUCTION

With close to 800 individual and collective members, VFP/APSI is not just a professional network for nursing science. It is a driving force, a collaborative, sharing, and scientific platform that is actively promoting research in nursing. By providing academic societies and academic nurses with an umbrella organization, VFP/APSI is creating opportunities for academic nursing scientists and other key stakeholders within nursing science to connect and exchange ideas. Our role as a major driver in advancing the development and application of a science-based, high-quality nursing practice is not just a responsibility, but a source of inspiration and motivation for all of us.

The 5-point strategy 2023–2027 addresses current developments within the Swiss healthcare system and structural developments within the association. However, VFP/APSI remains faithful to its vision to anchor academic nurses as an integral part of the Swiss healthcare system and promote nursing science as an established scientific discipline. The goal remains to continuously strive to improve evidence-based best nursing practices to provide the best care to patients, families, and society ^(Figure 1).



Figure 1: APSI mission in a nutshell

5 POINT STRATEGY

1 FOSTER THE SWISS RESEARCH AGENDA

The current Swiss Research Agenda for Nursing (SRAN) was finalized in 2019 as guidance for conducting high-quality research and education for bachelor, master, and doctoral programs. It aligns nursing science with the future challenges of Swiss healthcare and provides the base for gaining evidence-based knowledge and best practices in research, clinical practice, management, education, and politics. Yet, SRAN is marginally anchored in APSI's activities.

Key actions:

- **Implementation:** Develop a concept for the roll-out, promotion, and implementation of SRAN and anchor SRAN as a key activity topic within commissions and academic societies.
- **Projects:** Promote and support inter- and/or trans-professional research activities, implementation science and/or projects in education, research, management and clinical practice according to SRAN to strengthen evidence-based practice and identify the barriers that halt the uptake of proven health interventions and evidence-based practices.
- **Research Overview:** Rework the Swiss Research Overview Database, adapt it to the researchers' needs, and promote its use as a unique nursing science database linked to other relevant research databases.
- **Nursing science:** Develop and prioritize future strategic priorities for Nursing Science in Switzerland out of SRAN, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

2 PROMOTE ACADEMIC CAREERS, ACADEMIC SOCIETIES AND COMMISSIONS

Academic societies and commissions are the key VFP/APSI-organs when it comes to sharing discipline specific expertise, developing setting specific knowledge, defining specialized professional roles and promoting best practice. Furthermore, they provide

a solid base for building up professional networks, coaching and counseling of young and professional academics alike.

Key actions:

- **Role clarification:** On a national level develop, define and implement the diverse roles of nursing academics within health care, management education and research.
- **Career Development:** Develop a concept to foster and mentor young talents on B.Sc.N. level within the academic societies, commissions and board respectively. Develop a culture of shared leadership.
- **Research Prize:** Develop a concept for an established research prize for young talents.
- **Awareness:** Promote the academic societies and commissions as specialists for setting specific questions.

ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

Academic societies and commissions are the key VFP/APSI organs for sharing discipline-specific expertise, developing setting-specific knowledge, defining specialized professional roles, and promoting best practices. Furthermore, they provide a solid base for building professional networks and coaching and counselling young and professional academics.

Key actions:

- **Role clarification:** On a national level, develop, define, and implement the diverse roles of nursing academics in health care, management education, and research.
- **Career Development:** Develop a concept to foster and mentor young talents at the BScN level within academic societies, commissions, and boards. Develop a culture of shared leadership.
- **Research Prize:** Develop a concept for an established research prize for young talents.
- **Awareness:** Promote the academic societies and commissions as specialists for setting specific questions.

3 ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION I

Academic societies and commissions develop recommendations for nursing practice, take positions on health policy issues, and develop research projects. To improve, enhance and inspire nursing practice, working environments and nursing research, the elaborated know-how must be disseminated for nursing practice and the well-being of patients and society.

Key actions:

- **Recommendations:** Develop and publish disciplinary-specific nursing guidelines, best practices and binding rules and strengthen approaches from theory and evidence into practice and vice versa.
- **Education:** Develop an academic society and commission's overarching educational strategy (events, symposia, webinars, communication channels) to foster knowledge dissemination and collaboration within and outside VFP/APSI
- **Publications:** Develop a publication strategy and determine best-distributing channels
- **Collaboration:** Strengthen the commission to work on specific overarching topics. Identify possible candidates for inter- and trans-professional cooperation and set up research projects.

4 POSITIONING OF VFP/APSI

To advance nursing science and its position within the health system, VFP/APSI must become an influential and trusted partner in health science, politics and society. Consequently, VFP/APSI must intensify collaborations and networking in health science and education, improve its lobbying at the management and political levels and enhance its visibility towards stakeholders, politics and society. A better representation in influential boards and committees is needed to lobby for VFP/APSI's interest.

Key actions:

- **Communication:** Develop a communication strategy to enhance the visibility of VFP/APSI and its academic societies within its networks, stakeholders, and society at large. Introduce modern communication tools to facilitate internal and external collaboration.
- **Publication:** Enhance the publications on overarching future challenges in nursing science
- **Growth and membership development:** Increase memberships by recruiting at the education level, collective members and associations. Increase members and higher representation from French and Italian-speaking parts of Switzerland in academic societies and commissions.
- **Stakeholders:** Adjust current stakeholder management strategy towards influential national partners and identify critical positions for powerful collaboration and representation in national panels, important project groups, professional associations and boards.

5 PROFESSIONALIZE GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENT CULTURE

A professional governance and resilient culture are indispensable for VFP/APSI to fulfil its mission efficiently and effectively. Activities need better alignment to resources, and the association needs more streamlined collaboration within its structures and a unified VFP/APSI identity. A culture based on shared values and principles improves trust, transparency, efficient exchange, and sharing of knowledge within the association.

Key actions:

- **Structure:** Establish new governance with clarified roles, responsibilities, tasks and processes within VFP/APSI. Adjust structures and improve financial flows and income where needed.
- **Resources:** Establish a coordinated pluriannual resource (finance/human) and activity planning over all organs within VFP/APSI, including regular controlling and final evaluation of all activities.
- **Culture:** Develop a culture of collaboration by maintaining and promoting relevant processes and spaces of exchange, sharing, coordination, decision-making and co-creation and fostering shared leadership.

IMPLEMENTATION

With the defined 5-point plan, VFP/APSI strives to strengthen nursing science as a discipline and anchor nursing academics as a well-established pillar in the primary health care system, health research, and education. A detailed implementation plan, expected outcomes, and an evaluation plan will monitor the implementation over the next five years.

The General Assembly approved the strategic plan on May 4th, 2023, anonymously.