



Swiss Federal Office  
of Public Health

The Director

I, Thomas B. Zeltner, Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, on behalf of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, at the global launch meeting in Geneva on October 13, 2005,

Recognizing the serious disease burden<sup>1</sup> and significant economic impact<sup>2</sup> that health care-associated infection places on patients and health systems throughout the world,

Considering that the majority of these infections are treatable and avoidable<sup>3</sup>,

Appreciating the momentum that the Global Patient Safety Challenge programme of the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety is bringing to reduce health care-associated infection at the global level,

Emphasizing that a unique opportunity now exists to reverse the incidence of health care-associated infection in Switzerland,

**I resolve to work to reduce health care-associated infection through actions such as:**

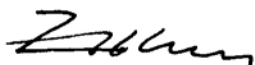
- Acknowledging the importance of health care-associated infection;<sup>4</sup>
- Developing or enhancing ongoing campaigns at national or sub-national levels to promote and improve hand hygiene among health care providers;<sup>5</sup>
- Making reliable information available on health care-associated infection at community and district levels to foster appropriate actions;
- Sharing experiences and, where appropriate, available surveillance data, with the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety;<sup>5</sup>
- Considering the use of WHO strategies and guidelines to tackle health care-associated infection, in particular in the areas of hand hygiene, blood safety, injection and immunization safety, clinical procedures safety and water, sanitation and waste management safety;

**I resolve to work with health professionals and associations in this country:**

To promote the highest standards of practice and behaviour to reduce the risks of health care-associated infection;

To foster and sustain collaboration with research institutions, training schools, educational centres, universities and health care settings of other WHO Member States to ensure full utilization of knowledge and experience in the field of health care-associated infection;

To encourage senior management support and role-modeling from key staff to promote the implementation of interventions to reduce health care-associated infection.



Prof. Thomas Zeltner

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<sup>1</sup> 70'000 healthcare associated infections in Switzerland each year, 300'000 additional days of hospital stay

<sup>2</sup> Estimated 250'000'000 CHF attributable costs in Switzerland each year

<sup>3</sup> Reduction of healthcare associated infections by 50% in University of Geneva Hospitals with an institutional hand hygiene campaign (Pittet D, et al. Lancet 2000;356:1307)

<sup>4</sup> The FOPH is already partner of the Swiss Hand Hygiene Campaign, more recognition by Federal institutions will help the campaign to succeed.

<sup>5</sup> More material support for the Swiss Hand Hygiene Campaign will result in a better result. The organization is very low budget at the moment. Plans exist to enlarge the topic and to engage in a national breakthrough project (Manfred Langenegger of the FOPH, KIQ) together with Swiss-NOSO (Dr Hugo Sax). This will be a good opportunity for support.