

Biosketch — Christoph Schlapbach, MD, PhD

Professor Christoph Schlapbach began his professional career with training as an architectural draftsman before transitioning to medicine. He studied medicine at the University of Bern, Switzerland, and subsequently completed an MD-PhD in immunology in Bern, followed by postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School.

He is Associate Professor of Dermatology & Venereology at the University of Bern and Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, where he serves as Chief of Service in the Department of Dermatology. He will assume the position of Chair of the Department of Dermatology in August 2026. In addition, he is Visiting Professor at the University of Freiburg. He leads the department's basic and translational research program, the cutaneous lymphoma outpatient clinic, and all ambulatory services.

Prof. Schlapbach's research lies at the interface of dermatology, immunology, and molecular medicine, with a focus on pathogenic T-cell circuits in inflammatory skin disease. His work addresses diseases such as atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, with particular emphasis on Th2/Th9 biology, IL-18/IL-9 signaling, and metabolic regulation of effector T-cell function. Recent publications include work in *Nature Communications* (2023) uncovering metabolic control of human Th9 cell function through PPAR- γ -regulated glycolysis, and in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (2024) describing IL-9/IL-18 crosstalk as a pathogenic mechanism in atopic dermatitis.

His contributions have been recognized with several awards, including the Paul Langerhans Award of the ADF (2024), the LEO Research Foundation Award (2017), and the Haller Medal of the University of Bern (2017). He was selected to deliver the Stephen I. Katz Memorial Lecture in 2026.

Prof. Schlapbach serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* and previously on the editorial board of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, as well as on the ESDR Board. His research is supported by competitive funding, including a LEO Foundation grant (2024–2027) focused on the role of IL-18 in atopic dermatitis pathogenesis.