

13th ICDRA - Have a look at the final programme!

The final programme for the 13th ICDRA from 16 to 19 of September 2008 in Berne, Switzerland, is now available. Please just click [here](#) to view the final programme. The programme for the Pre-Conference (14 and 15 September 2008) is also at its final stage. Please follow the link to view more details: [detailed programme Pre-Conference](#).

Programme Spotlight: Plenary 3 "Building mutual trust as a key to access"

Regulatory approval of medicines - evaluation, registration (marketing authorization) - is based on science. Scientific assessment needs considerable resources and capacity if it is to be carried out properly. This session sets out to show how mutual trust can be a capacity building factor and improve access to medicines. Potential public health gains can be harnessed from a harmonized understanding of what is needed to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines.

This session will address the many questions faced by regulators in difficult, resource constrained environments, including:

- How can regulators best contribute to public health with the resources they have?
- Should regulators assess and inspect every innovative product that is proposed for their market?
- Can and should all regulators assess and inspect all generic medicines?
- Does repetitive assessment and inspection give added value?
- How can confidence be built into scientific assessments carried out by other parties?

Important Travel Information

General travel information for Switzerland can be viewed at the internet site www.myswitzerland.com.

From the airport to Berne

Zurich and Geneva airports are fully integrated into the Swiss railway network and have their own railway stations. Intercity trains to Berne run every hour. In Basle, a bus service links the airport with the city centre. The bus stops right outside the railway station. The buses leave every 10 minutes and the ride takes 15 to 20 minutes. From Basle railway station, there are also Intercity trains to the city of Berne every hour.

There is a shuttle bus from the small airport of Berne-Belpmoos into the centre of Berne. Departures are around 20 minutes following landings.

Please allow the following travel time from the airport to Berne:

- From Basle approx. 1 hour 30 minutes
- From Geneva approx. 1 hour 45 minutes
- From Zurich approx. 1 hour 15 minutes
- From Berne airport to Berne city approx. 20 minutes



Currency

Please note that Switzerland remains with the Swiss franc, usually indicated as CHF. While Switzerland is not part of the European Union and thus is not obliged to convert to the Euro, many prices are nonetheless indicated in Euros so that visitors may compare prices. Merchants may accept Euros but are not obliged to do so. Change given back to the client will most likely be in Swiss francs.

Weather

When travelling around Switzerland, and particularly in the Autumn, it is worth bringing both a thick sweater and a lightweight shirt. And there is no season without any rain at all. In September, the temperatures in central Switzerland are on average between 5 and 15°C. Although the nights can already be really fresh, we also often enjoy warm, Indian Summer sunshine during the day. For the actual weather forecast, please refer to the ICDRA Homepage www.icdra.ch ⇒ Switzerland & Berne ⇒ weather or just click here: [weather](#).

Please note: if you have booked the half day excursion to the Mount Rothorn, please make sure to bring a warm sweater or jacket. Temperature in the mountains can vary.

Emergency Number

Should you encounter any difficulties while you travel, upon arrival at the airport or at customs, please do not hesitate to contact us. The ICDRA 2008 Organising Office is available for any emergency situation before, during and/or after the conference under the following phone number: **+41 (0)79 77 00 848**.

Reminder: Traditional costume

We are expecting representatives from many different countries to promote collaboration among drug regulatory authorities and coordinating the work of the various authorities. We would be delighted to highlight this international aspect of ICDRA in a visual way, and are adopting an idea from an earlier edition of the Conference: that of inviting all participants to attend the gala dinner (Thursday, 18 September 2008) in their own national costume. We look forward to a striking, colourful mix of traditional dress. For our part, the ICDRA 2008 Organising Office members will be dressed in traditional Swiss finery!





Excursions

On the second day of the 13th ICDRA - Wednesday 17 September - there will be an afternoon excursion. Participants can choose between 3 destinations that are among the most stunning Switzerland has to offer:

- Lucerne and Lake Lucerne
- Mount Rothorn, Brienz
- Gruyère

Excursion to La Gruyère

Leaving from the venue (Hotel Allegro/Kursaal) at 1:00 p.m. Coach trip from Berne to the French-speaking region of Switzerland. Visit to the Maison du Gruyère, with its "Journey to the Heart of the Senses" exhibition, where you can find out the secrets of how the local Gruyère cheese is made. Then a short trip to the village itself with free time to wander around the village or visit the castle. The impressive castle, with its eight centuries of history, dominates the village and houses an interesting collection: religious capes of Charles the Bold, tapestries, furniture and panellings painted by Camille Corot. At 5:00 p.m. journey back to Berne, arrival at the Hotel Allegro/Kursaal at 6:15 p.m.

Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone who would be interested. You can find more information about ICDRA at: www.icdra.ch