

THE VFP/APSI STRATEGY 2023 - 2027

Introduction

With close to 700 individual and collective members VFP/APSI defines itself as the professional network for nursing science. As a collaborative, sharing and scientific platform VFP/APSI is promoting research in nursing, providing academic societies and academic nurses an umbrella organization and opportunity to exchange and connect academic nursing scientists as well as other key stakeholders within nursing science. VFP/APSI is a major driver in advancing the development and application of a science based, high quality nursing practice.

In 2023, VFP/APSI developed its mission statement providing a solid base for a long-term strategic view. As the strategy 2017 – 2022 has come to an end, VFP/APSI formulated in line with the mission statement a 5-point plan for the next strategy period 2023-2027. It focuses on fostering nursing science overall, promoting academic nurses in their careers and anchor their roles in the health system, facilitating knowledge dissemination and implementation to improve best nursing practice and aligning the association's governance to its needs to make VFP/APSI an attractive, influential and powerful partner in nursing care and health science.

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

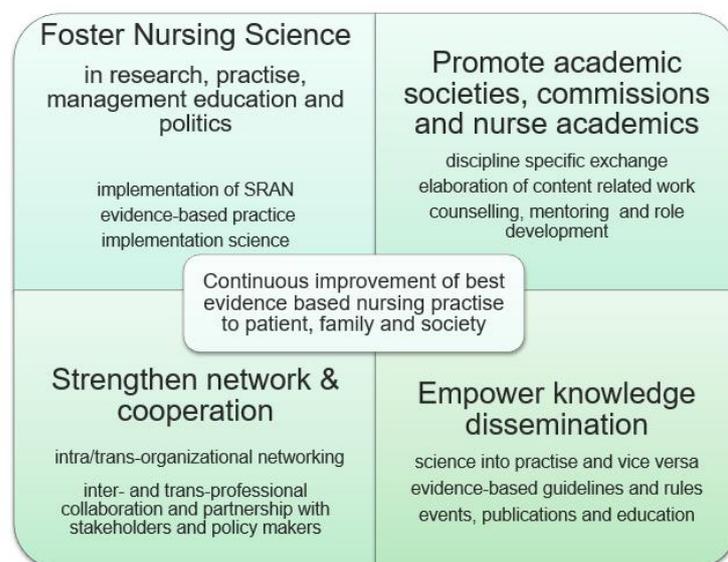


Figure 1: APSI mission in a nutshell

5 Point Strategy

1 Foster the Swiss Research Agenda

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

Key actions:

- **Implementation:** Develop a concept on 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 identifying the barriers that halt the uptake of proven health interventions and evidence-based practices.
- **Research Overview:** Rework the Swiss Research Overview Database and 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 out of SRAN future strategic priorities for Nursing Science in Switzerland 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.

3 Enhance knowledge dissemination

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 wellbeing of patients and society.

Key actions:

- **Recommendations:** Develop and publish disciplinary specific nursing guidelines, best practice 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 collaboration 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, in politics and society. In consequence VFP/APSI must intensify collaborations and networking in health science and education, improve its lobbying at management and political level 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, its stakeholders and in society at large. Introduce modern communication tools to facilitate collaboration internally and externally.
- **Publication:** Enhance the publications on overarching future challenges in nursing science
- **Growth and membership development:** Increase memberships by recruiting at 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 key positions for powerful collaboration and representation in national panels, important project groups, professional associations and boards.

5 Professionalize governance and resilient culture

To fulfill its mission efficiently and effectively a professional governance and resilient culture are indispensable for VFP/APSI. Activities need better alignment to resources; the association needs a 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 a new governance with clarified roles, responsibilities, tasks and processes within VFP/APSI and adjusted structures and improved finances 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 over 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, in health research and education. For the successful implementation, a detailed implementation plan, definition of expected outcomes and an evaluation plan will be developed by a strategy group, consisting of members of the board, academic societies and executive office.

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