

Versantis

# The detoxification experts

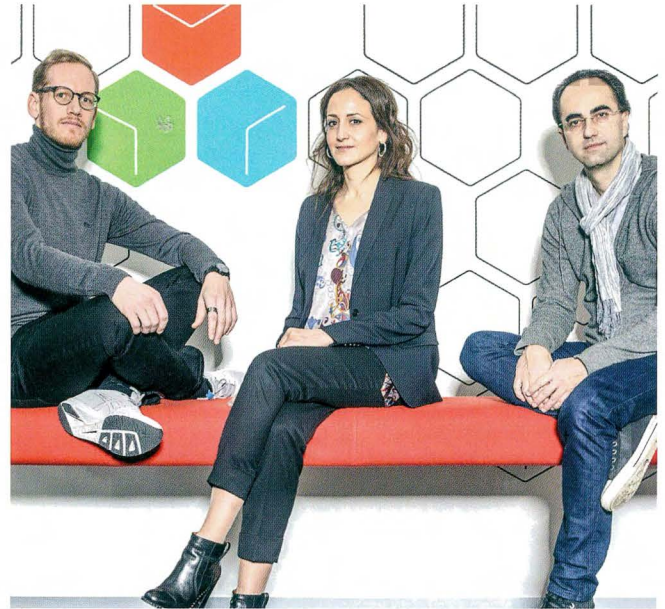
**People put their lives at risk every day through alcohol and medication abuse that damage the liver. By means of dialysis in the abdominal cavity, the young entrepreneurs at Versantis have developed a product to rid the body of toxic substances and thus save lives of liver impaired patients.**

The liver plays a key role in the detoxification of metabolic wastes. When the liver is no longer able to remove toxic substances from the blood, there is a rapid accumulation of such toxins, causing brain oedema, coma, and ultimately death. In fact, liver diseases affect more than 30 million Europeans, and kill each year more people than diabetes and road deaths combined. Currently, there are no effective treatments for acute intoxications in patients with liver damages. To fill this unmet medical need, Versantis has developed a revolutionary dialysis fluid that can effectively, safely, and rapidly remove toxic substances from the body, thus preventing the fatal outcome following alcohol and drug poisoning.

Vincent Forster, Meriam Kabbaj, and Jean-Christophe Leroux are the co-founders of Versantis, an ETH spin-off company in Zurich. They have developed a fluid with special vesicles that capture the toxic substances in the body. Similar to the established peritoneal dialysis for kidney patients, the detoxification fluid is administered into the abdominal cavity where it acts as a vacuum cleaner. Small toxic substances are sucked from the bloodstream into the abdominal cavity where they remain trapped. The toxin-loaded fluid is then manually withdrawn using gravity. The cost and technical simplicity of this method makes it suitable for non-specialized medical centres.

With its innovative approach, Versantis is at the forefront in the fight against the growing number of patients with liver disease. Moreover, using a similar technology, it will be able to tackle patients with drug overdose (150,000 in Europe per year!), which represents an attractive market advantage for the company.

Versantis has now completed the proof of efficacy and safety in rats with both acute liver failure and drug overdoses. It is now looking for CHF 3.4 million, to fund the manufacturing scale-up of its product and the non-clinical pharmacology studies required to initiate the first-in-human trials directly in the target patient population.



**VINCENT FORSTER CEO, MERIAM KABBAJ COO, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE LEROUX SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR**

The team at Versantis is bullish that this straightforward and yet innovative approach will translate quickly into a commercial product with a huge health benefit for patients, doctors, and health institutions. By opening up a new dimension in the field of dialysis, Versantis' mission is to save lives of liver disease patients worldwide through innovative technologies.



## VERSANTIS

### Versantis

8093 Zürich

Line of business	Biotech
Foundation	2015
Employees	2 + 3 CTI
Financing	Seeking for Series A, 3 4M
Web address	<a href="http://www.versantis.ch">www.versantis.ch</a>

CTI Invest Pitch	Yes
CTI Coaching	Yes
CTI Projects	Yes
Venture Leader	Yes
Venture Kick	Yes

Additional Awards: Top 10 >>venture>> business idea  
Top 10 >>venture>> business plan, Volkswirtschaftsstiftung,  
Swiss Technology Award finalist