University of Basel

Faculty of Medicine

# Project Management in the Life Sciences Industry



Basel, Switzerland
Part 1: 8–10 March 2027
Part 2: 12–14 April 2027

ECPM®
European Center of Pharmaceutical Medicine

CONTINUING EDUCATION

## Course Description

This course, delivered in two three-day modules, is designed for life sciences professionals working in drug and medical device development, as well as in clinical settings. It focuses on the skills needed to successfully manage projects that advance innovative treatments and medical technologies to patients. From early development and clinical studies to post-marketing studies, these complex projects require professional management, effective stakeholder coordination, and the ability to achieve deliverables within tight budgets and timelines.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly transforming project management in the life sciences industry, improving efficiency in planning, data analysis, risk assessment, and progress tracking. As AI automates more routine tasks, the role of project managers is evolving towards greater emphasis on strategic oversight, leadership, and informed decision-making. Asking the right questions, understanding human dynamics, and managing teams in complex, cross-functional environments remain essential skills that complement AI capabilities.

This highly interactive workshop combines instructor-led training with group work based on real-life cases. Participants will develop practical templates and tools for planning, executing, monitoring and controlling, and closing projects. Participants can also work on their own project to identify challenges and develop solutions, or use a model project provided by the course instructors.

## Learning Objectives

- To understand the tasks and responsibilities of a project manager
- To develop leadership skills for project management and for high-performing project teams
- To be acquainted with the tools to manage all knowledge areas throughout all project phases
- To build, lead, and manage effective project teams
- To be familiar with the interactions needed with different project stakeholders
- To know how to practically apply different project management standards to all kinds of pharmaceutical development projects

## Course content

- Development of personality traits to become an effective project leader
- Overview of all project phases (initiation, planning, execution, monitoring & controlling, closure) and knowledge areas
- Management of scope, time, cost, quality, team, communication, risk, procurement and stakeholders
- Development of a project plan, starting from a project charter
- Creation of documents and worksheets for managing clinical trials or other projects relating to pharmaceutical development
- Use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor project status
- Discussion of Corrective Action Preventive Action (CAPA) to prevent the project from getting off track
- Application of AI in project management, including planning, data analysis, risk assessment, and progress tracking

## Course Structure

This course consists of two three-day modules and combines lectures, practical exercises, and interactive group discussions. A mandatory homework assignment completes the learning portfolio.

## Certificate

Upon participation in both modules and successful submission of the mandatory homework assignment, participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance issued by the University of Basel, awarding 4 ECTS credit points.

## Target Audience

Specialists responsible for projects in the pharmaceutical industry, hospitals, academic institutions, or regulatory authorities.

## Course Instructors

**Daniel Gau** is an accomplished business leader and passionate entrepreneur with over 20 years of international experience across academia, venture capital, start-ups, and multinational corporations in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries. Throughout his career, he has held senior leadership roles in R&D, venture capital, business development, and corporate development, combining strategic expertise with hands-on experience in leading complex, multidisciplinary projects and translating scientific innovation into commercial success. As the founder of Beyond Science Consulting, Daniel provides executive training, coaching, and strategic support for building and growing life sciences companies.

**Nancy Van Osselaer** is an experienced life sciences consultant with over 25 years of expertise in drug development, combining strategic leadership with hands-on project and portfolio management. She is the founder of Why2What, a consultancy providing strategic advice and operational support to guide early-stage drug development programs from concept through clinical development. Throughout her career, Nancy has held senior leadership positions at Galapagos, UCB, and Johnson & Johnson, contributing to the successful progression of development programs and regulatory submissions across multiple therapeutic areas.

## Registration and Fee

Registration: www.ecpm.ch/project-management-in-life-science
The course fee of CHF 3,000 includes electronic course materials, practical templates, and coffee breaks.

**Registration deadline: 26 February 2027**

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www.ecpm.ch