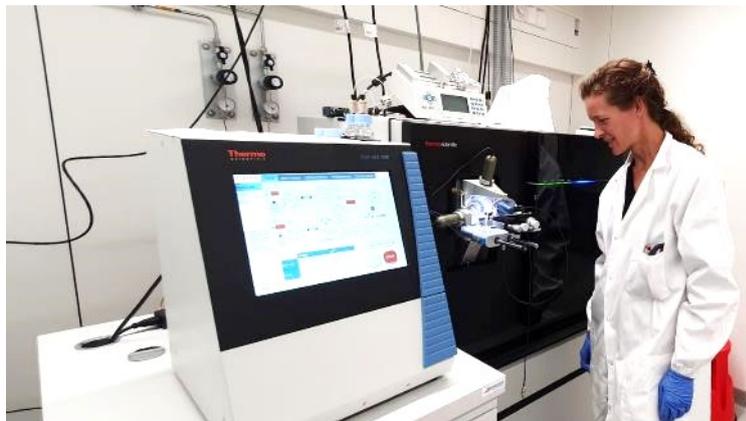


English version of our article in the “Bündner Woche”, December 2, 2020

## Research in Graubünden

### **A scientist with personality and character**

Katja Bärenfaller from the Valais is doing research in Graubünden



*The Orbitrap Eclipse mass spectrometer is the centerpiece of the new Center for Proteomics. Image: SIAF*

Davos. With her Ridgeback dog Pina, who often accompanies her to work, she enthusiastically hikes the Grisons mountains.

In August 2020, the Canton of Graubünden commissioned the SIAF to establish and operate a Center for Proteomics at the Davos Medical Campus. The project will receive a total of 3.49 million Swiss francs for the period 2020 to 2026. The cooperation partners SIAF, Hochgebirgsklinik Davos, AO Research Institute Davos, and Kantonsspital Graubünden intend to use the research discipline proteomics to better understand the molecular basis of certain diseases. A proteome is the entirety of proteins in a cell or living being. The important thing is that the composition of the proteome is specific to a certain state and changes dynamically. “Proteins are responsible for many processes in our body. Our goal is to identify those proteins that play an important role in processes relevant to asthma or allergies. Based on these findings, we can develop new, personalized therapies,” explains Bärenfaller.

Since 2015, Bärenfaller has been using Twitter in her spare time (<https://twitter.com/jaggakatja>) to express her views on scientific topics: “It takes patience and persistence to run an account in the long run. I became active on Twitter to educate about vaccination and other science topics. With Twitter you have a voice as a scientist that you did not have before. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I thought that now everyone would realize again what the world would look like in an epidemic without vaccinations and that the reputation of science would rise, which unfortunately did not happen. I try to counter bluster and shouting with facts. As a scientist I have to have a thick skin and be prepared to listen to a lot of things.” Self-ironically, Bärenfaller adds, “Twittering is a good exercise in impulse control.”



*Katja Bärenfaller*

Article written by Katja Bärenfaller and Daniela Heinen

Find out more about research in Graubünden: [www.academiaractica.ch](http://www.academiaractica.ch), [www.graduateschool.ch](http://www.graduateschool.ch).