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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

After studying chemistry at ETH Zurich, Pascale Vonmont completed her PhD in biopolymers in 1993. Parallel to her studies, she also qualified as a high school teacher and taught for six years at the Wirtschaftsgymnasium Zurich, a high school focusing on economics. Over five years, she made a significant contribution at the University of Basel towards designing and establishing a new, interdisciplinary programme entitled “Man – Society – Environment”, while lecturing in Science and Technology. She has held a management function at Gebert RUF Stiftung since 1999, assuming the position of Director in 2017.

She completed her degree as “Foundation Manager EBS” at the European Business School of the International University in Oestrich-Winkel, Germany, in 2009. In summer 2015, she spent a three-month sabbatical as a Visiting Fellow at the Foundation Center in New York.

FUNCTION AND CURRENT MAIN PRIORITIES

Pascale Vonmont manages the operational side of the foundation. She supports the board of trustees in its strategic activities and is an advisory, non-voting member of the Chairman’s Committee.

As coordinator of the Kick Foundation, a new foundation established in 2015 with the aim of networking and accelerating innovation in Switzerland, Pascale Vonmont has been a key driver behind the establishment of “digitalswitzerland” and represents GRS on the Executive Committee of this location-based initiative, which is organized as an association and foundation. She also heads the “Venture Kick” strategy board and is a member of the jury of the “venture leaders” programme. She has been President of the Board of the Startupticker Foundation since 2015, in which capacity she supports efforts to strengthen science entrepreneurship at Swiss universities.

From 2006 to 2014 she was responsible for coordinating the “Rare Diseases – New Approaches” programme. Under the new “Microbials” programme she connects all of Switzerland’s research activities in this area.

As Board Member of SwissFoundations, the Association of Swiss Grant-making Foundations, Pascale Vonmont is committed to developing Switzerland as a liberal location for foundations. She is also member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Philanthropy Studies, the research and executive education institute of the Swiss Foundation System.