COVID-19 update August 20, 2020

Dear PhD students,

In the wake of the current situation, here is an update how we can proceed by following the governmental implications (https://www.bag.admin.ch) and the directives of the University of Bern. There are still the same guidelines in place as in the beginning of June and they will be in place until further notice.

- The GCB coordinator and office team are still working partially in home office
- Thesis Defenses and Mid-Term Examinations:
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GCB electronically
  - Hold via videoconferencing, e.g., Zoom and with at least one thesis committee member (or tutor in the case of exams) in the room together with the student.
  - Verify the maximum capacity of the room you reserve – the physical presence within the room may not exceed maximum capacity and physical distancing guidelines must be adhered.
  - Apéros or any social gathering are postponed indefinitely until further notice
  - Schedule in advance an appointment to drop off the three hard copies of your thesis defense copies
- Course Certificates and other study documentation
  - Continue to send all relevant documents to the GCB electronically
- General communication
  - Communicate with the GCB via email whenever possible.
  - Schedule appointments in advance should you need to discuss with the GCB by telephone

Stay healthy and still have a good summertime!

PD Dr. Monica Schaller, GCB Coordinator, and the GCB Administration Team