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## Introduction

The story of the ALSG Swiss Faculty started in Spring 2011 over a cup of coffee. The idea was to develop a course in obstetric emergencies. At that time, paramedic training in obstetrics was confined to a one-day course on normal delivery. After consulting a French-speaking ALSG centre, the first POET course was set up in English at the Ecole Supérieure d'Ambulancier et Soins d'Urgence Romande ES ASUR (College of Paramedic and Emergency Care Western Switzerland) in February 2012. This first encounter with the staff and instructors of ALSG Manchester was a huge success and the start of a great venture.

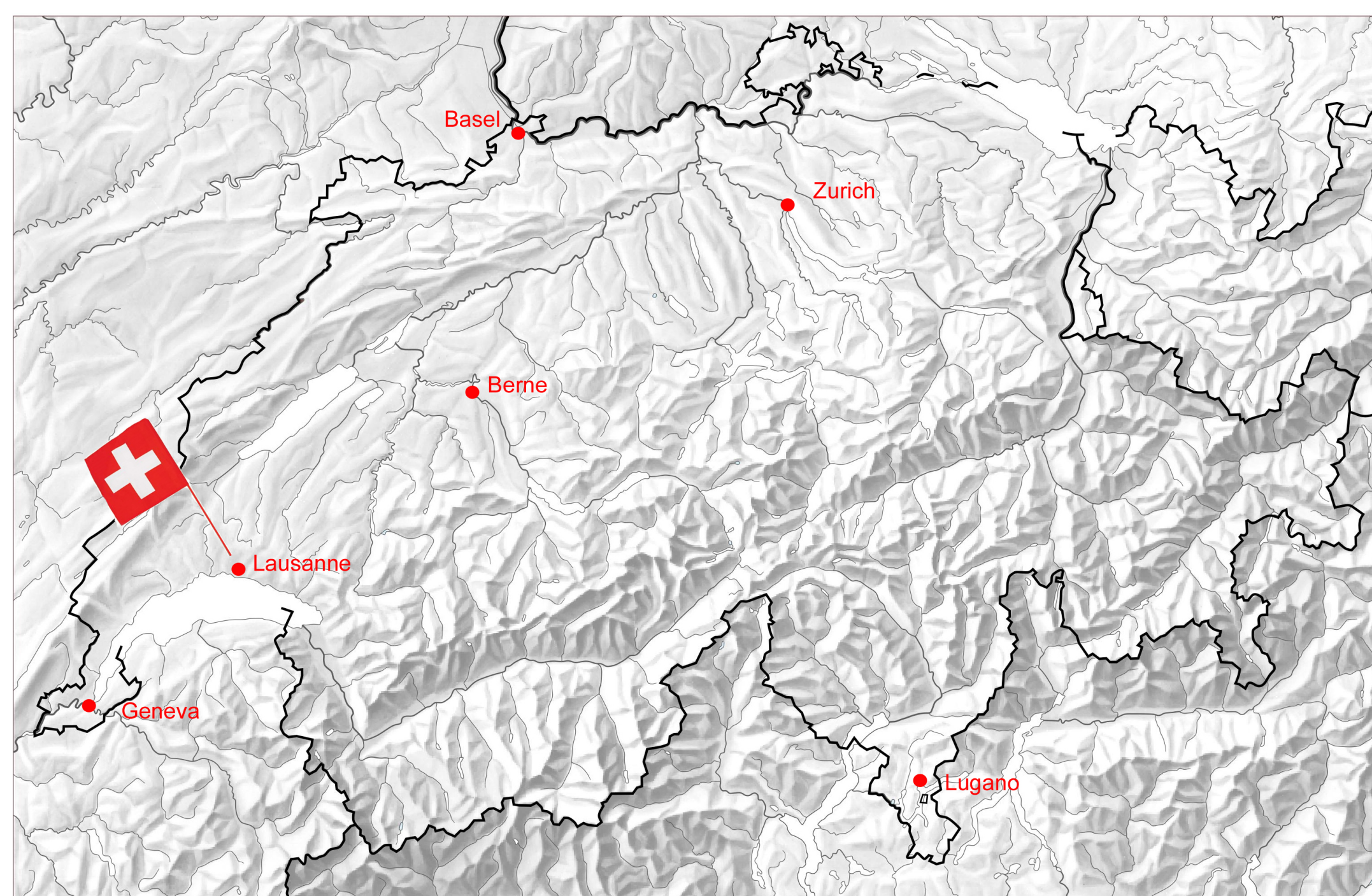
**Fig. 1. ES ASUR, en Budron C8, 1052 Le Mont-sur-Lausanne**



The ES ASUR is a College of Higher Vocational Education. It offers advanced professional training on a full-time basis combined with work experience in pre-hospital and hospital units leading to two levels of vocational qualification. The first level is a prerequisite to access the second:

- Emergency Medical Technician Certificate
- Paramedic with College of Higher Vocational Education Diploma

The ALSG courses are part of a wide range of continuing education courses open to all pre-hospital care practitioners. The aim of this ongoing training is to update knowledge and harmonise practices. These courses contribute to developing professional skills by making them accessible to all and accrediting them in different forms (publications, diploma projects, work-based assessment etc).



## Pre-hospital organisation in Switzerland

### A huge potential

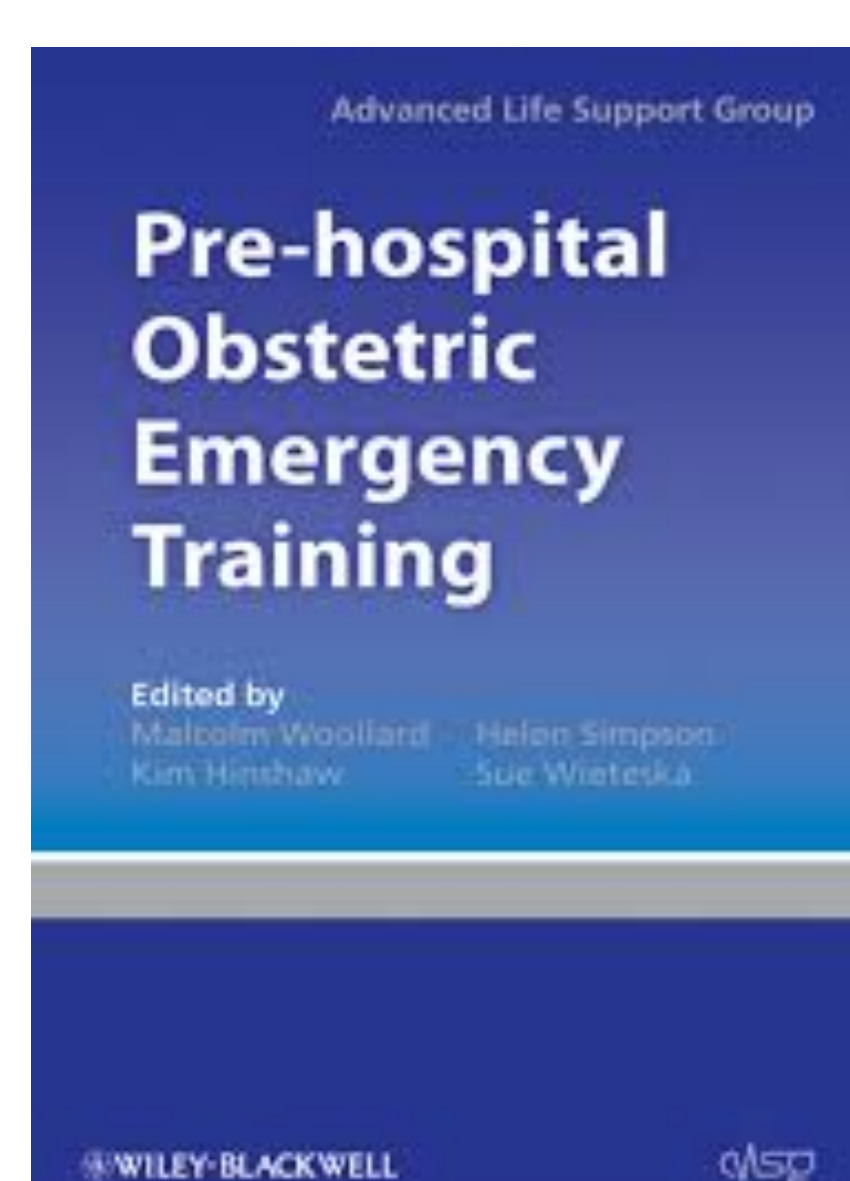
The dispatching of pre-hospital emergency services is determined by the 144 Emergency Control Centre (999 in UK) on the basis of clinical or contextual keywords. Ambulance crews are generally made up of one Paramedic (5600 hrs of training) and one Emergency Medical Technician (1800 hrs of training). In certain cases a Mobile Emergency Service Doctor (SMUR - service mobile d'urgence et réanimation) may reinforce the crew. The introduction of obstetric courses has been welcomed by all pre-hospital practitioners.

## Development of the Swiss Faculty

In view of the quality of the ALSG structure, the ES ASUR has decided to provide the resources necessary to train paramedics on the GIC course in Manchester and to import one or two ALSG courses per year in order to offer a wide range of courses.

- ✓ MIMMS (2013)
- ✓ GIC (2013)
- ✓ STAR (2014)
- ✓ HMIMMS (2015)
- ✓ PHPLS (2015)

The greatest challenge is to translate the different handbooks and adapt the UK recommendations to our local practices without altering the meaning.



**Fig. 3. Cours POET 2012**



### The lack of data in Switzerland

This collaboration has made us aware of the lack of standardised data collection in relation to prehospital obstetric cases in Switzerland. The recent introduction of a computerized system in some districts marks a promising future for data collection for these specific cases and for new interdisciplinary collaborations.

## Conclusion

Having access to this new knowledge makes this a stimulating venture. It is a valuable opportunity to learn about pre-hospital organisation and practices specific to other countries and also to introduce our British and Irish colleagues to Swiss culinary culture (cheese and chocolate!)

<< . . . and it is often an excuse to ourselves that we imagine that things are impossible >> (François de la Rochefoucauld)

**Fig. 2. Cours MIMMS 2013**



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