

## Media Release

### [InSphero Wins ACES Award as Top European Academic Enterprise in Life Sciences](#)

**Schlieren, Switzerland, October 14, 2014 – Second honor in three weeks continues momentum for leading supplier of 3D microtissues for in vitro toxicity and efficacy testing.**

InSphero AG, the leading provider of 3D cell culture technology, assay-ready 3D microtissues and 3D-focused contract research services, was recognized Tuesday as [winner of the 2014 ACES Life Sciences Award](#). The pan-European award recognizing enterprise in university and public research institutes was announced October 7<sup>th</sup> in Berlin, Germany. The award marks the second such honor in three weeks for InSphero, after having been named the [#1 Swiss Startup](#) in the Top 100 Swiss Startup Rankings on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Founded in 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland as a spin-off of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich and the University Zurich, InSphero now also operates commercial offices in Germany and the United States. InSphero's 3D InSight™ human and rat [liver microtissues](#) are used for in vitro toxicity and safety testing, and the company recently added novel [3D pancreatic microislets](#), a [spheroid imager](#), and an optimized [cytotoxicity assay kit](#) to its portfolio of 3D-focused products and services.

Dr. Jan Lichtenberg, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of InSphero states the company's success reflects the market's need for more biologically relevant models for drug safety testing, and InSphero's ability to deliver state-of-the-art 3D solutions. "With this second award within just three weeks, we have been recognized as the leading startup not only in Switzerland but also across European Life Sciences startups. Over the past five years, we have managed to win all of the top 15 largest pharmaceutical and the number 1 cosmetics companies as customers. This shows how seamlessly our 3D technology can be integrated, and how quickly it improves compound testing for our customers."

Melanie Aregger, Head of InSphero's Diagnostics Business Unit, was present to accept the award in Berlin, saying the award, "is a tremendous honor which, along with our excellent market traction, has built positive momentum for our current Series C investment round to support the global roll-out of our validated technology."

The ACES awards program was created in 2008 by Science|Business, a Brussels- and London-based media company and innovation network set up to recognize entrepreneurship at academic institutions. The ACES 2014 winner's conference was held in Germany at the Technical University Berlin. The winners were chosen by the Science|Business Innovation Board from a shortlist drawn up by a jury drawn from academia, industry and venture capital.

For more information about InSphero, visit [www.insphero.com](http://www.insphero.com).

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## About InSphero

InSphero is a leading supplier of organotypic, biological in vitro 3D microtissues for highly predictive drug testing. The company, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, with subsidiaries in the USA and in Germany, currently counts all of the top ten global pharmaceutical and cosmetics companies as customers. InSphero 3D Insight™ Microtissues enable more biologically relevant in vitro applications in efficacy and toxicology. The spin-off company of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich and the University Zurich has been recognized for its scientific and commercial achievements with a number of national and international awards, including being named both the #1 Swiss Startup and ACES Award Winner for 2014. InSphero is certified to the ISO 9001:2008 standard for its Quality Management System.

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Melanie Aregger (second from left) of InSphero AG accepted the 2014 ACES Life Sciences Award in Berlin, Germany on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The pan-European ACES awards recognize enterprise in university and public research institutes.