

31.03.2021

## **The power of spring**

Dear students, dear colleagues

Our calendars tell us that spring 2021 has arrived. But it is much more important that we experience and feel spring. Primroses, crocuses and daffodils are sprouting in the meadows and the sun's rays are causing the temperatures to rise again. For me, this time of year always means a kind of new beginning. Especially in the current pandemic period, I feel this very strongly and also enjoy it.

We have all been in this state of emergency for so long: no on-site teaching, no events, no inspiring gatherings or boisterous after-work get-togethers. Even though we have gotten used to it in a way, the situation still demands a lot of patience from us. The spirit of a university thrives on personal exchange and this is often sorely lacking. But if we remain confident together, we can keep this spirit alive - currently digitally personal.

Unfortunately, the epidemiological development does not point to an easing at the moment. The Federal Council will decide on possible next relaxations in mid-April. With our operational tests, we are doing our part to stabilise and then reduce the infection figures. I am pleased that we can participate in this important project. The fact that we remain in distance mode throughout the spring semester also reduces the risk of infection. Let's hope that a successful vaccination strategy will soon make our everyday life more carefree again.

And here I come back to spring. For me, the warming rays of the sun, the evenings when it is light again for longer and the colourful blossoms mean a new beginning or simply consciously opening up to something new. Let us be infected by this power of spring. Easter is the festival of hope. Let us enjoy possible meetings outdoors and look forward to hopefully soon taking further steps back into a new, lighter everyday life.

I would like to close with Joachim Ringelnatz (a German poet):

"When the chocolate germinates, when after long pressure with poets 'Glockenklingen' finally rhymes with 'Lenzes Schwingen', and the Easter bunny is also already pressing in the back, then Easter will soon come."

I wish you and your loved ones sunny and restful Easter days!

Best wishes

Yours, Jürg Kessler

Head of Crisis Management, President