Dear friends and distinguished colleagues,

on behalf of PRO RETINA Germany, the organizing team is delighted to welcome you to the 16th International Research Colloquium on Retinal Degeneration to be held in Potsdam on April 1st and 2nd, 2022.

Traditionally, the meeting concept follows a four session format starting with eight oral presentations from junior researchers that are selected from submitted poster abstracts. The talks together with the evening poster presentations will be the basis for three prestigious awards in the categories “poster design”, “clinical translation”, and “basic science”.

The main theme of the meeting will be “Retinal degeneration – Environment matters”. We will therefore focus on often neglected factors in the “micromilieu” that critically influence retinal homeostasis, disease, and therapy.

Prof. Marius Ueffing, director of the Institute for Ophthalmic Research in Tübingen, will give the keynote lecture and highlight how big data derived from OMICS technologies can uncover key mechanisms that influence age-related macular degeneration.

In this year’s three plenary sessions, twelve experts with leading contributions in diverse areas of ocular research will discuss the role of ocular environment including immune mechanisms in gene therapy, present novel key metabolic aspects in retinal/RPE, and define factors shaping photoreceptor survival.

We will conclude the first day with a special evening lecture given by Prof. Frank Schäffel highlighting strategies to inhibit myopia, the most common eye disorder in the world.

Our highly esteemed “Swingin’ poster session”, will again offer a unique opportunity for all participants to have a good time and have stimulating scientific exchanges in a relaxed atmosphere.

PRO RETINA Germany, founded in 1977, is a patient organization with a longstanding commitment “to encourage ophthalmic research, to battle disease and to ensure a self-determined life of persons with retinal degeneration”. In continuation of its many activities in supporting these goals, the PRO RETINA Foundation of Prevention Blindness again sponsors the Potsdam meeting series since its beginnings in 2005.

The organizing committee:
Franz Badura
Prof. Dr. Peter Charbel-Issa
Prof. Dr. Antje Grosche
Prof. Dr. Thomas Langmann
### 16th PRO RETINA RESEARCH-COLLOQUIUM POTSDAM

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

**Friday, April 01, 2022**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>13:00-13:05</td>
<td>Welcome remarks</td>
<td>Franz Badura</td>
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| 13:05-14:30 | SESSION 1                                                             | Selected poster presentations
Eight abstracts to be selected                                                   |
| 14:30-15:00 | Keynote Lecture                                                       | A systems biology view on age-related macula degeneration
Marius Ueffing (Tübingen, Germany)                                              |
| 15:00-15:45 | Coffee break                                                          |                                                                                  |
| 15:45-17:25 | SESSION 2                                                             | Factors shape the efficiency of gene therapy                                    |
| 15:45-16:10 | Immune responses to retinal gene therapy using adeno-associated viral vectors – Implications for treatment, success and safety
Dominik Fischer (Oxford, UK)                                                  |
| 16:10-16:35 | AAV-mediated retinal pathology in mice is connected to reactive microgliosis
Anne Wolf (Cologne, Germany)                                                   |
| 16:35-17:00 | AAV vectors and CRISPRa-Cas9-based (epi)genome editing approaches for retinal gene therapy
Elvir Becirovic (Munich, Germany)                                              |
| 17:00-17:25 | Microgliosis during retinal degeneration
Sandra Siegert (Kloster Neuburg, Austria)                                      |
| 17:25     | Dinner                                                                |                                                                                  |
| 19:00-19:30 | Evening Lecture                                                       | Current strategies for the inhibition of myopia
Frank Schäffel (Tübingen, Germany)                                            |
| 19:30-open | Swingin’ Poster Session                                               |                                                                                  |

**Saturday, April 02, 2022**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-11:05</td>
<td>SESSION 3</td>
<td>The role of metabolic homeostasis and mitochondria in retinal diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-09:25</td>
<td>Metabolic aspects of retinal degeneration</td>
<td>Stelios Michalakis (Munich, Germany)</td>
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<td>09:25-09:50</td>
<td>Mitochondrial Retinopathy</td>
<td>Johannes Birtel (Bonn, Germany/Oxford, UK)</td>
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| 09:50-10:15 | CERKL, a retinal dystrophy gene, regulates mitochondrial function and dynamics in the mammalian retina
Gemma Marfany (Barcelona, Spain)                                              |
| 10:15-10:40 | Serine metabolism in the retina                                       | Marcus Fruttiger (London, UK)                                                   |
| 10:40-11:05 | Lipid metabolism in RPE                                              | Christian Grimm (Zurich, Switzerland)                                           |
| 11:05-11:40 | Coffee break                                                          |                                                                                  |

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<tr>
<td>11:40-12:55</td>
<td>SESSION 4</td>
<td>Factors shaping photoreceptor environment</td>
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| 11:40-12:05 | Incorporation, polarisation and maturation of human photoreceptors transplanted into mouse models of retinal degeneration
Marius Ader (Dresden, Germany)                                                  |
| 12:05-12:30 | Using iPSC-derived retinal models to understand and treat inherited retinal diseases
Vassiliki Kalatzis (Montpellier, France)                                         |
| 12:30-12:55 | AMD 10q26 risk haplotype impairs subretinal monocyte elimination
Christophe Roubeix (Roche – Basel, Switzerland)                                |
| 12:55-13:00 | Concluding remarks                                                   |                                                                                  |
| 13:00   | Lunch and end of meeting                                             |                                                                                  |
Follow this link for registration: [Registration]

Registration deadline: March 29, 2022

The conference language is English.

REGISTRATION FEES

Student/graduate/delegate: € 90,-
Post-doc: € 120,-
Faculty: € 140,-

Please pay by credit card or by remittance to the following bank-account:

face to face event GmbH
Ref.: your invoice number & Research Colloquium 2022
IBAN: DE25 3007 0010 0541 5542 00
SWIFT-BIC: DEUTDEDDXXX

A very important feature of our meeting is the poster session.

Abstract submission deadline: March 04, 2022

If you register a poster you will get detailed information by a separate email.

Organization of the meeting

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Retinal Degeneration
Environment matters
An interdisciplinary dialogue

April 01/02, 2022

ACCOMMODATION & VENUE
The meeting will take place at the conference room of Seminaris See Hotel Potsdam ****
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14471 Potsdam/Germany
Tel.: + 49 (0)3 31 / 90 90-400
Fax: + 49 (0)3 31 / 90 90 - 900
Mail: info.pots61@seminaris.com
Web: www.seminaris.de

HOW TO GET THERE
The Seminaris SeeHotel is in the western part of Potsdam, close to the forest of Pirschheide, next to the Templiner See.

Arrival by train:
Mainstation Potsdam, about 5 km (national trains, e. g. ICE-, IC-, EC-station) or station “Potsdam Pirschheide”, distance 1000 m (regional trains, e. g. RE-, RB-, bus and tramway station).

Arrival by plane:
The airport Berlin Brandenburg is in reach of the hotel (approximately 60 km).

SUPPORT

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