

PRO RETINA FOUNDATION



**10<sup>th</sup> PRO RETINA  
RESEARCH-COLLOQUIUM  
POTSDAM**

# Retinal Degeneration

Diagnostic Advances,  
New Mechanistic Insights  
and Progress in Therapeutic  
Approaches

An Interdisciplinary Dialogue



**March 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
SEMINARIS SEEHOTEL POTSDAM

supported by  
**BMBF-Project „HOPE-01GM1108A“**

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Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# INVITATION

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of PRO RETINA Germany, we would like to welcome you to the **10<sup>th</sup> International Research Colloquium on Retinal Degeneration** to be held in beautiful Potsdam, Templiner See, from March 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The meeting celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with its traditional focus on retinal degenerations. This year we want to specifically highlight new mechanistic insights, diagnostic advances, and progress in therapeutic approaches. During the two day meeting, we will discuss recent advancements in these three areas of interest and have invited a number of national and international renowned experts in the field.

Decades of commitment to basic and clinical research has made the PRO RETINA a most valuable partner in our quest for understanding and treating retinal degeneration diseases. In particular, two endowed PRO RETINA Professorships have been established over the years with the purpose to build up long-term academic structures with a powerful multiplier effect in the field of eye research in Germany. We want to honor this outstanding commitment with a special session entitled "The PRO RETINA Professorship: A story of success".

A long-term objective of the PRO RETINA Potsdam Meeting is to involve early-stage researchers in the programme and to offer a platform of exposure. This year, we have dedicated an entire session to the young scientists where selected poster presentations will briefly be presented of which three will be awarded the PRO RETINA Poster Price.

We thank all speakers, chairs and guests for participating and hope you enjoy the meeting and your visit to the Templiner See in Potsdam.


*The organizing committee:*

*Franz Badura, Prof. Dr. Klaus Rütger, Prof. Dr. Olaf Strauß  
and Prof. Dr. Bernhard Weber*

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**13:00–13:05 Welcome remarks**

**13:05–14:30 Session 1**   
**Selected poster presentations**  
Eight abstracts to be selected

**14:30–15:10 Keynote lecture**  
Steven J. Fliesler, Buffalo  
*A decade of progress in retinal degeneration research: Cage-side to bedside and back*

**15:10–16:00 Coffee break**

**16:00–17:40 Session 2**   
**Mechanisms relevant to retinal degeneration**


16:00–16:25 Solon Thanos, Münster  
*Retinal microglia and regeneration*

16:25–16:50 Peter Vandenabeele, Gent  
*Molecular mechanisms of regulated necrosis, an attempt at an overview*

16:50–17:15 Kari Alitalo, Helsinki  
*Vascular growth factors, angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis*

17:15–17:40 J. Emanuel de Carvalho, Amsterdam  
*The role of the proteasome in age-related macular degeneration*

**17:40 Dinner**

**19:00–20:00 Session 3**   
**The PRO RETINA Professorship: A story of success**

19:00–19:20 Antje Grosche, Regensburg  
*Perspectives on targeting Müller glia cells as a treatment option for complex retinal diseases*

19:20–19:40 Peter Charbel Issa, Bonn  
*ABCA4-related retinopathy – linking phenotype and therapeutic strategies*

19:40–20:00 Thomas Langmann, Köln  
*How innate immunity and genetics meet in the retina*

**20:00–open Swingin' poster session**

## Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### 09:00–10:40 **Session 4** **Diagnostic advances**

09:00–09:25 Wolf Harmening, Bonn  
*The potential of adaptive optics for retinal degenerations*

09:25–09:50 Johannes de Boer, Amsterdam  
*Beyond structural OCT imaging in the human retina*

09:50–10:15 Michael B. Hoffmann, Magdeburg  
*Assessment of visual function with multi-focal electrophysiology*

10:15–10:40 Hanno Bolz, Ingelheim  
*Opportunities and pitfalls of high throughput DNA testing in retinal dystrophies*

**10:40–11:15 Coffee break**

### 11:15–12:55 **Session 5** **Strong in translation**

11:15–11:40 Frank Holz, Bonn  
*Therapeutic approaches for dry age-related macular degeneration – hopes and constraints*

11:40–12:05 Astrid Limb, London  
*New Aspects in gene therapy*

12:05–12:30 Yvan Arsenijevic, Lausanne  
*The potential of stem cells/iPSC in the therapy of retinal degenerations and AMD*

12:30–12:55 Stefanie Hauck, München  
*Neurotrophic factors and related therapeutic approaches for retinal degenerations*

**12:55–13:00 Concluding remarks**

**13:00 Lunch and end of meeting**

## REGISTRATION

Contact our website:  
[www.potsdam-meeting.de](http://www.potsdam-meeting.de)

The registration deadline is March, Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.  
Cancellation is free of charge until March, Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.  
Thereafter registration fees cannot be reimbursed.

## FEES

Fees include accommodation and catering.

Student/graduate/delegate: € 70,-

Post-doc: € 100,-

Faculty: € 120,-

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

**INTERFACE GMBH & CO. KG**

**Sparkasse Mainfranken**

**BLZ: 790 500 00, Kto.-Nr. 443 482 58**

**Ref. "Research-Colloquium 2015"**

**IBAN: DE75 7905 0000 0044 3482 58**

**SWIFT-BIC: BYLADEM1SWU**

## ACCOMMODATION & VENUE

The meeting will take place at the conference room of

**Seminaris SeeHotel Potsdam \*\*\*\***

*An der Pirschheide 40*

*14471 Potsdam/Germany*

*Tel.: +49(0)331/9090-0 · Fax: +49(0)331/9090-900*

*Mail: [potsdam@seminaris.de](mailto:potsdam@seminaris.de)*

*Web: [www.seminaris.de](http://www.seminaris.de)*

It will start at 01:00 p.m. sharp.

A contingent of rooms is reserved for max. 150 participants.  
If you are planning to stay elsewhere please let us know.

## CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The conference language is English.

## POSTER SESSION

A very important feature of our meeting is the poster session. Submission deadline: March, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

Please find more details on our website:

[www.potsdam-meeting.de](http://www.potsdam-meeting.de)

# HOW TO GET TO THE SEMINARIS SEEHOTEL POTSDAM:

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

## Arrival by car:

**North:** Coming from A 24 (Hamburg/Rostock) continue on to A 10 (Berliner Ring) and then take the exit "Potsdam Nord".

**West:** Coming from A 2 (Hannover) continue on to A 10 and then take the exit "Groß Kreuz".

**South and East:** Coming from A 9/A 13/A 12 (Leipzig, Dresden, Frankfurt/Oder) continue on to A 10 and then take the exit "Michendorf".

Within the city borders of Potsdam you will be guided by the hotelguide-system. Coming from the national road B1 there is a private access road directly to the hotel.

## Arrival by train:

Mainstation Potsdam, about 5 km (national trains, e.g. ICE-, IC-, EC-station) or station "Potsdam Pirschheide", distance 800 m (regional trains, e.g. RE-, N-, S-, and tramway station).

## Arrival by plane:

The airports Tegel and Schönefeld are in reach of the hotel (approximately 50 km). From the airport take motorway A 10 "Berliner Ring", exit "Groß Kreuz" South and East (see above "Arrival by car").

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## Organization of the meeting:

### **Interface GmbH & Co. KG**

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