

**Prof. Dr. med. Oliver Gross**Klinik für Nephrologie und Rheumatologie
Universitätsmedizin Göttingen**Alport syndrome and the glomerular basement membrane –
a podocytopathy from bench to bedside**

In Erlangen, Nephrologisches Labor Loschgestrasse, Oliver Gross started his research in the field of type IV collagen diseases and collagen receptors by establishing the tools for molecular-genetic diagnosis of Alport Syndrome in Germany. In the past 20 years, the team was the first to launch numerous pre-clinical studies in murine type IV collagen knockouts and different collagen receptors knockout mice. Supported by the DFG, Deutsche Nierenstiftung and others, this work has changed our understanding of the biochemical and genetic mechanisms in pathogenesis of type IV collagen diseases and possible therapeutic targets and strategies. In 2003, Gross et al. published the first therapy for Alport syndrome in our animal model. Consequently, Oliver Gross founded the European Alport therapy registry in 2006, which - for the first time in humans - confirmed our encouraging preclinical data: therapy can delay end-stage kidney disease by more than one decade. Next, this observational data were boosted by the world's first randomized clinical trial in Alport syndrome, the investigator initiated EARLY PRO-TECT trial, sponsored by the BMBF (<https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmbf.de/de/videoportrait-hilfe-fur-nierenkranke-kinder-14890.php>). Our pre-clinical and clinical data fundamentally changed treatment recommendations and the need for early genetic diagnosis.

Oliver Gross will present his current pre-clinical research including novel aspects in the patho-mechanism of type IV collagen diseases including Goodpasture syndrome, innovative approaches such as gene-targeted therapy and podocyte protection, and clinical aspects of upcoming investigator initiated clinical trials to further delay end-stage kidney disease.

Our discussion of therapeutic targets and the data presented by Oliver Gross will enrich the bright future of patient with glomerular diseases such as Alport syndrome: 25 years ago, Alport syndrome was an almost inevitable fate with early dialysis in the second or third decade of life. The goal of the presentation of Oliver Gross and our discussion is to enrich the perspective that the combination of both, early diagnosis and pre-emptive multi-targeted therapy, has the potential to delay kidney failure by lifetime and to improve quality of life and life-expectancy in most of our patients

Time: Monday, 13 March 2023, 16:30h
Location: Pathologie Universitätsklinikum Erlangen
Krankenhausstr. 8-10
Oberer Hörsaal, Raum A 2.150
and Zoom

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