PROGRAM

Friday, April 12, 2024

13:00 – 13:05  Welcome remarks
Franz Badura (Amberg, Germany)

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

14:30 – 15:10  Keynote lecture
Kapil Bharti (Bethesda, USA)
Developing stem cell-based therapies for degenerative diseases of the eye

15:10 – 16:00  Coffee break with scientific chit-chat

16:00 – 17:40  SESSION 2
Know your gene

16:00 – 16:25  Gavin Arno (London, UK)
The clinical utility of nanopore sequencing for inherited eye disease diagnosis

16:25 – 16:50  Maximilian Gerhard (Munich, Germany)
Gene therapy in clinical practice

16:50 – 17:15  Klaus Rüther (Berlin, Germany)
Genetic diagnostics in retinal dystrophies – benefit for the patients

17:15 – 17:40  Avril Daly (Dublin, Ireland)
Retina International
Know your gene – the patient perspective

17:40  Dinner

19:00 – 19:30  EVENING LECTURE
Christine Curcio (Birmingham, USA)
Leveraging photoreceptor topography for a progression sequence of AMD

19:30 – open  Swingin’ poster session

Saturday, April 13, 2024

09:00 – 10:40  SESSION 3
Updates on RPE in retinal degeneration

09:00 – 09:25  Achim Göpferich (Regensburg, Germany)
Nanoparticles for intraocular drug delivery

09:25 – 09:50  Christelle Monville (Corbeil-Essonnes, France)
Phase i/ii open-label study of implantation into one eye of hESC-derived RPE in patients with retinitis pigmentosa due to monogenic mutation: first safety results

09:50 – 10:15  Peter Charbel-Issa (Oxford, UK)
Novel tools to image the RPE in patients

10:15 – 10:40  Anu Kauppinen (Kuopio, Finland)
Antimycin A-induced mitochondrial dysfunction regulates inflammasome signaling in human retinal pigment epithelial cells

10:40 – 11:15  Coffee break

11:15 – 12:55  SESSION 4
Retinal organoids in development, disease and therapy

11:15 – 11:40  Volker Busskamp (Bonn, Germany)
Generating vascularized human retinal organoids

11:40 – 12:05  Magdalena Renner (Basel, Switzerland)
High throughput retinal organoids for therapy development

12:05 – 12:30  Majlinda Lako (Newcastle, UK)
Retinal organoids: a window into development, disease and drug discovery

12:30 – 12:55  Verena Hübschmann (Klosterneuburg, Austria)
The impact of human microglia in retinal organoid development

12:55 – 13:00  Concluding remarks

13:00  Farewell Lunch and end of meeting
Dear friends and colleagues,

on behalf of the Pro Retina – Foundation for Prevention of Blindness, established in 1996, the organizing team is pleased to welcome you to the 18th International Research Colloquium on Retinal Degeneration in Potsdam, Germany, held on April 12-13, 2024.

The theme of this year’s meeting is “Advancing Retinal Research: Genetics, Disease Modeling, and Therapy”. Distinguished national and international speakers will share their knowledge on genetic testing and gene therapy, AMD progression and diagnosis, RPE dysfunction and replacement as well as retinal organoid technology.

The meeting starts with eight presentations by junior scientists selected from the submitted poster abstracts. These talks, along with the evening poster presentations, will form the basis for the prestigious awards in the categories of “Basic Research”, “Clinical Translation” and “Poster Design”.

This year’s keynote lecture will be given by Kapil Bharti, scientific director of the intramural research program at the National Eye Institute (NEI). Herein, he will provide insights into recent developments of stem cell-based therapies for the treatment of retinal degenerative diseases. In a second special lecture, Christine Curcio, White-McKee Endowed Professor in Ophthalmology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will speak about pathophysiological concepts and disease progression of AMD. As always, the evening lecture will be followed by the popular “Swingin’ Poster Session” which is a unique opportunity to exchange scientific ideas and concepts in a relaxed and constructive atmosphere which characterizes the PRO RETINA Research Colloquium.

In three plenary sessions, experts will present and discuss their leading contributions in different areas of ophthalmic research centered around inherited retinal disease. One session provides insights into new developments in genetics and real-world perspectives on genetic testing and gene therapy, followed by a spotlight session on the RPE and its implications in retinal dystrophies. The conference will close with presentations on recent advances in the exciting field of human retinal organoid research.

The patient organization PRO RETINA Germany, founded in 1977, has long been committed to promoting ophthalmic research, fighting disease and enabling a self-determined life for people with retinal degenerations. As part of its many activities in terms of fostering ophthalmic research, the Foundation for Prevention of Blindness was established in 1996 and has also sponsored the Potsdam Conference Series since its inception in 2005.

The organizing committee: Marius Ader, Franz Badura, Peter Charbel-Issa, Antje Grosche, and Thomas Langmann

REGISTRATION
Contact our website:
www.pro-retina-stiftung.de
The registration deadline is April 10, 2024.

ACCOMMODATION & VENUE
The meeting will take place at the conference room of Seminaris SeeHotel Potsdam *****
An der Pirschheide 40
14471 Potsdam/Germany
Tel.: +49 331 9090-400
Fax: +49 331 9090-900
Mail: info.pot61@seminaris.com
Web: www.seminaris.de
It will start at 01:00 p.m. sharp.
A contingent of rooms is reserved for max. 120 participants. If you are planning to stay elsewhere please let us know.

POSTER SESSION
A very important feature of our meeting is the poster session. When registering for an abstract submission you will automatically get an email with further detailed information. You can find details also on our website: www.pro-retina-stiftung.de
Abstract submission deadline: March 05, 2024.

HOW TO GET TO THE SEMINARIS SEE HOTEL POTS DAM:
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).

FEES
Fees include accommodation and catering.
We offer an EarlyBird discount of 20,- € for registration before December 31, 2023. Please add the discount code by booking.
Late registration from February 29, 2024 is charged with an additional fee of 20,- €.

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Please pay by credit card, paypal or by remittance to the following bank account:
Katharina Bedenk – BEvention
Ref.: [Your invoice number] & Research Colloquium 2024
IBAN: DE19 1203 0000 1053 4254 17
SWIFT-BIC: BYLADEM 1001

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE
The conference language is English.

Organization of the meeting
Pro Retina – Foundation
Franz Badura
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Katharina Bedenk
Am Steinbüttel 6
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Tel.: +49 151 700 99 887
info@bevention.de
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The conference will close with presentations on recent advances in the exciting field of human retinal organoid research.

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