

20th INTERNATIONAL RETINAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUE

POTSDAM MEETING

LESSONS FROM THE PAST TO SHAPE
THE FUTURE OF RETINA RESEARCH
AND PATIENT CARE

APRIL 17 – 18, 2026
SEMINARIS SEEHOTEL POTSDAM

Registration

Contact our website:

www.potsdam-meeting.org

The registration deadline is April 10, 2026.



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 90 90-400

Fax: + 49 331 90 90-900

info.pot61@seminaris.com

www.seminaris.de

It will start at 15:00 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.potsdam-meeting.org

Abstract submission deadline: March 9, 2026.

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 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.

Late registration from March 2, 2026 is charged with an additional fee of 20,- €.

	Regular	Late registration
Student/graduate/ delegate	€ 110,-	€ 130,-
Post-doc	€ 150,-	€ 170,-
Faculty	€ 170,-	€ 190,-

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

Katharina Bedenk - BEvention

Ref.: [Your invoice number] & Research Colloquium 2026

IBAN: DE19 1203 0000 1053 4254 17

SWIFT-BIC: BYLADEM 1001

Conference language

The conference language is English.

Organization of the meeting

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Supported by

INVITATION

PROGRAM

Dear friends and colleagues,

on behalf of our new partners, the Albrecht Mayer Foundation, the German Retina Society and Retina plus e. V., the organizing team is pleased to welcome you to the 20th International Research Colloquium on Retinal Degeneration in Potsdam, Germany, on April 17th/18th 2026.

Since 2005 the “Potsdam Meeting” has brought scientists, clinicians, patients and industry representatives together to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and advance retinal research. In 2026 we will celebrate the 20th anniversary with the theme “Lessons from the past to shape the future of retina research and patient care”.

The meeting opens on Friday afternoon with registration, a welcome reception and a keynote by Prof. Hélène Dollfus (Strasbourg) on the genetic architecture of retinal diseases. After selected poster presentations and dinner, a panel discussion with scientists, politicians, and patients will look back on two decades of the Potsdam colloquium, its impact, and future directions in retinal research and therapy development. The core for our fruitful mutual exchange is our traditional “Swingin’ poster session” in the evening.

On Saturday the programme is structured around three thematic sessions. The first session, “Photoreceptors in retinal degeneration”, will address fundamental and translational advances aimed at preserving or restoring photoreceptor function, ranging from organoid-based models to experimental therapeutic strategies. The second session, “RPE dysfunction as a driver of retinal disease”, will explore how the RPE maintains retinal health, how its disruption contributes to degenerative processes, and what insights genetic studies offer into disease mechanisms. The final session, “Focus on non-neuronal cell types in retinal degeneration”, will examine the roles of supporting and immune cells in the diseased retina, highlighting how glia, Müller cells and infiltrating immune cells influence degeneration and recovery.

We invite you to join us in Potsdam, contribute your ideas and help shape the next chapter of retina research.

The Organizing Committee:

Prof. Dr. Marius Ader, Franz Badura, Prof. Dr. Antje Grosche, Prof. Dr. Francois Paquet-Durand, Prof. Dr. Diana Pauly and The German Retina Society

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

13:00 Registration and check in
14:00 – 15:00 Welcome reception with coffee and snacks
15:00 – 15:15 Welcome remarks
Franz Badura (Amberg, Germany)
15:15 – 16:00 Keynote lecture
Hélène Dollfus (Strasbourg, France)
»The genetic architecture of retinal degenerations and diagnostic methods«

16:00 – 17:45 SESSION 1

SELECTED POSTER PRESENTATIONS EIGHT ABSTRACTS TO BE SELECTED

17:45 – 19:00 Dinner

19:00 – 20:00 PANEL DISCUSSION

20 YEARS OF THE RETINA RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM IN POTSDAM

20:00 Swingin’ poster session

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

09:00 – 10:30 SESSION 2

PHOTORECEPTORS IN RETINAL DEGENERATION

Session chair: Marius Ader (Dresden, Germany)

09:00 – 09:30 **Jacqui van der Spuy (London, UK)**
»Organoids for modulating hereditary retinal diseases«
09:30 – 10:00 **Rachael Pearson (London, UK)**
»Rewiring the retina after photoreceptor transplantation: lessons from development«
10:00 – 10:30 **Melita Kaltak (Nijmegen, Netherlands)**
»Splicing modulation therapy for inherited retinal diseases«
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break with scientific chit-chat

11:00 – 12:30 SESSION 3

RPE DYSFUNCTION AS DRIVER OF RETINAL DISEASE

Session chair: Diana Pauly (Marburg, Germany)

11:00 – 11:30 **Susanne Koch (Munich, Germany)**
»The versatile roles of retinal pigment epithelium in the pathophysiology of retinitis pigmentosa«
11:30 – 12:00 **Jacopo Di Russo (Aachen, Germany)**
»Mechanical homeostasis of retinal pigment epithelium across space and time«
12:00 – 12:30 **Karolina Kaminska (Basel, Switzerland)**
»Bi-allelic variants in three genes encoding distinct subunits of the vesicular AP-5 complex cause hereditary macular dystrophy«
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 SESSION 4

FOCUS ON NON-NEURONAL CELL TYPES IN RETINAL DEGENERATION

Session chair: Antje Grosche (Munich, Germany)

13:30 – 14:00 **Alessandro Arrigo (Milan, Italy)**
»Müllerotrophy and Mülleropathy – a clinical perspective«
14:00 – 14:30 **Lucas Stürzbecher (Berlin, Germany)**
»T cells in retinal pathology«
14:30 – 15:00 **Daniel Saban (Durham, USA)**
»Microglia as modifiers of retinal degenerative diseases«
15:00 Closing remarks
Franz Badura (Amberg, Germany)