

15 Years of the Institute of Experimental Ophthalmology at Saarland University

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On September 26, 2024, the virtual celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Institute of Experimental Ophthalmology at Saarland University in Homburg/Germany took place. On this special occasion, Prof. Oksana Vitovska (Bogomolets University, Kyiv, Ukraine) and Dr. Sibylle Scholtz (University of Homburg) interviewed the founder and director of the institute, Prof. Dr. Achim Langenbacher.



Figure 1: The logo of the Institute of Experimental Ophthalmology.

The event was organized as a webcast and offered participants insights into the history and development of the institute.

(https://www.uniklinikum-saarland.de/de/einrichtungen/kliniken_institute/experimentelle_ophtalmologie/wir_ueber_uns).



Figure 2: Prof. Achim Langenbacher (left above), Dr. Sibylle Scholtz (right above) and Prof. Oksana Vitovska.

The Institute of Experimental Ophthalmology was founded in 2009 and was dedicated to research in the field of ophthalmology. Under the leadership of Prof. Langenbucher, the institute has developed into an internationally recognized center that is characterized by innovative research projects and close international collaborations.



Figure 3: Prof Langenbucher speaking.

In the interview, Prof. Langenbucher spoke about the scientific projects that have shaped the institute, as well as his vision and future plans for research in the field of experimental ophthalmology. The professional competencies and current research topics include: intraocular lenses in general, development of individual intraocular implants, improving the imaging quality of work safety glasses, optical simulations and optical design, lasers in medicine with a focus on ophthalmology, light-tissue interactions, adaptive optics, photodynamic therapy, examination devices and surface measurement technology.

Langenbucher also gained international reputation with the introduction, in 2017, of his internet database “IOLCon” (<https://iolcon.org/>).



Figure 4: Prof. Langenbucher and the real birthday cake.

The virtual celebration, with a real individual birthday cake that showed the institute's logo, also offered participants the opportunity to actively participate in an open question and answer session and to discuss his current research projects. Finally, the institute's commitment to the further development of ophthalmology was acknowledged and a positive outlook on future challenges and projects was given. The webcast left the participants with a lasting impression of the institute's valuable scientific work.

The event successfully offered a look back at 15 years of innovative research in the field of ophthalmology at Langenbucher's institute. The hosts praised the achievements of Prof. Langenbucher and his team and emphasized the importance of the institute to the international scientific community. This was recently recognized in the English-language magazine "The Ophthalmologist," which ranks Langenbucher as one of the 100 most influential people in ophthalmology worldwide.

(<https://powerlist.theophthalmologist.com/achimlan1?ContactList=41>).

Recording of the webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAJBOhDxsjY&t=23s>.

More information about the institute:

https://www.uniklinikum-saarland.de/de/staetten/kliniken_institute/experimentelle_ophthalmologie/wir_ueber_uns.

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