



**DOG**  
Deutsche Ophthalmologische  
Gesellschaft

Gesellschaft für Augenheilkunde

**DOG 2018**

**September 27<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, World Conference Center  
Bonn**

**DOG 2018**  
27.- 30.9.2018  
World Conference Center Bonn

**Präsident der DOG**  
Prof. Dr. Nicole Eter  
Münster

## **“Ophthalmology 4.0” breaks new ground Annual ophthalmology conference in Bonn points the way to the future**

**Bonn, October 2017 – The future of ophthalmological diagnostics and treatments will be supported by artificial intelligence, digital networks, and apps for patients. This is the key message of the DOG 2018. Keyword and guiding topic of the conference, which ended this past Sunday, was “Ophthalmology 4.0”. For the first time in its history, the conference was held in Bonn. Over 4,350 participants gathered in the World Conference Center, 2,700 of them ophthalmological professionals. Highlights of the event included the keynote lectures by international experts and Digital Sunday, a day dedicated exclusively to issues of digitalization.**

Ophthalmology is leading in digital medicine. A field using increasingly precise imaging technology, it is ideally suited to drive digitization, networks, and big data. The German Ophthalmological Society DOG wants to take an active role in this process. “We are currently building a central register that allows doctors in private practices and hospitals to submit anonymized patient data,” says DOG president Prof. Dr. med. Nicole Eter. Prof. Eter, who heads the University Eye Clinic in Münster, is convinced that a centralized database will promote advances in diagnostics and therapy: “We will be able to understand eye diseases better and identify them earlier.”

Digital imaging technology already allows ophthalmologists to visualize increasingly subtle structures. “We currently get best results for blood vessels and optical nerves,” Prof. Eter says. Artificial intelligence can support the evaluation of these images and therefore help with diagnostics. “Existing applications have demonstrated that the error rates of algorithms are similar to that of experienced colleagues,” says Prof. Eter. Technology can thus decrease the workload of physicians, allowing them more time to care for their patients.

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In addition to networking, data privacy, telemedicine, apps, and AI, DOG experts discussed new biomaterials, new developments in customized artificial lenses, and minimally invasive eye surgery. These focus topics were also represented in the keynote lectures: Professor Daniel Mojon from Heiden talked about new incision techniques in strabismus surgery; Professor George Williams introduced the IRIS register, a central database for eye diseases in the United States that may serve as a model for the DOG's planned register; and Professor Pearse Keane from London shone a light on the potential that deep learning and artificial intelligence hold for ophthalmological progress.

In total, the conference offered ophthalmologists 1,152 scientific contributions and 259 sessions during 53 symposia, 10 Updates, 24 free lecture sessions, 38 courses, 35 poster sessions, 18 workshops, and 3 keynote lectures. At the accompanying industry show\*, 118 exhibitors presented their innovative products on 2,300 square meters of floor space and held 31 company events.

As in previous years, the conference's supporting program provided a welcome counterbalance to all the science.\* At DOG in Concert, an orchestra of ophthalmologists played classical masterworks in the sold-out Beethoven Haus Bonn. The proceeds of the concerts went to the German Eye Foundation (Stiftung Auge). The course of the traditional charity Eye Run, also for Stiftung Auge, went along the Rhine river.

Next year's DOG 2019 will return to Berlin and be held under the presidency of Prof. Dr. med. Claus Cursiefen. Prof. Cursiefen, director of the University Eye Clinic Cologne, has chosen the motto "Ophthalmology: our specialty with a future" for the next edition. The first vice president and thus conference president 2020 will be Prof. Dr. med. Hans Hoerauf, Director of the University Eye Clinic Göttingen. Prof. Dr. med. Nicole Eter has retired from the office of the president and is now 2. vice president.

At the conference, DOG members also elected or confirmed the members of the DOG Presidium. New members are: Pro. Dr. med. Michael Schnittkowski, Göttingen, as delegate of the Bielschowsky Society; Prof. Dr. med. Arnd Heiligenhaus, Münster, as representative of the section DOG uveitis; Dr. rer. nat. Sven Schnichels, Tübingen, as representative of the workgroup Young DOG. Two auditors were also appointed in the course of these regular elections: the new deputy auditor is Prof. Dr. med. Karl-Heinz Emmerich, Darmstadt.

The following officials were reelected: Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Reinhard, Freiburg, as secretary general; Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Kohnen, Frankfurt/Main, as recording clerk; Prof. Dr. med. Carl Erb, Berlin, as representative of the section DOG glaucoma; Prof. Dr. med. Berthold Seitz, Homburg/Saar, as representative of the section DOC cornea; Prof. Dr. med. Klaus Rüter, Berlin, as representative of the section DOG



neuro-ophthalmology; Prof. Dr. med. Elisabeth Messmer, Munich, as representative of the section DOG Ophthalmopathology; Dr. med. Ulrich Schaudig, Hamburg, as auditor; and Prof. Dr. med. Karl-Heinz Emmerich, Darmstadt, as deputy auditor.

\* The industry show and the fee-based supporting program are not DOG e.V. events but events of Interplan Congress, Meeting & Event Management AG Munich.

*File copy requested.*

***DOG: research – science – patient care***

*DOG is the medical science association of ophthalmologists in Germany. More than 7,400 doctors, researchers, and scientists in the field of ophthalmology are members. The key mission of the DOG is to promote ophthalmological research. The organization supports scientific projects and research studies, organizes conferences, and publishes scientific journals. DOG also supports and promotes young scientists and researchers, e.g. by offering stipends. Established 1857 in Heidelberg, DOG is the world's oldest ophthalmological society and the oldest medical specialists' association in Germany.*