A few thoughts concerning this special Symposium in Tübingen

When my younger colleagues at the Eye Hospital in Tübingen asked whether I would be happy about a Symposium being organized in honour of my 60th birthday, I hesitated only for a short moment. YES, I would feel very pleased and very honoured if such a Symposium took place where young scientist-doctors would have an opportunity to invite some of the best representatives of their field to give survey lectures and, in turn, be able to present their own research findings in “hot spots”, thus giving them the chance to link up with the international scientific network.

I asked my young colleagues to invite their favourite “heroes” in science, and I was very excited about the outcome, seeing that these were almost all long-standing travel-companions on my forty-years’ journey through ophthalmic research.

As you can see, a most attractive, high-level Symposium on Function and Dysfunction of the Visual System has resulted. I hope that it will be interesting for many colleagues working in the field and it is certainly open to anybody who likes to join us in celebrating the joy of basic and clinical research and its interaction in ophthalmic science.

Finally, I would like to tell you that I sincerely hope you can join us and I want to thank my co-workers for their excellent ideas and hard work in making this Symposium come true.

Eberhart Zrenner
**Symposium on the Function and Dysfunction of Vision**

**Friday, November 4th, 2005**

14:00 – 14:10  
**Eberhart Zrenner/Ulrich Schiefer**  
Welcome in Tübingen

**Session I  Cure on the horizon**

**Chair:**  
Peter Gouras and José Sahel

**14:10 - 14:30**  
Peter Gouras / New York  
New treatments of retinal & brain disorders: gene therapy and/or cell transplantation

**14:30 – 14:50**  
José Sahel / Paris  
Photoreceptor rescue: clues from functional genomics

**14:50 – 15:10**  
Reto Weiler / Oldenburg  
Seeing with electrical synapses

**15:10 – 15:30**  
Paul Sieving / Bethesda  
Human retinal neurodegeneration, therapy with CNTF: phase 1 study

**15:30 – 15:50**  
Tübingen hot spots (F.Gekeler R.Rejdak/F.Schaeffel/F.Schüttauf)

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**17:35 – 17:55**  
Tadeusz Sarna / Krakow  
The role of lipofuscin in chronic phototoxicity of the retina

**17:55 – 18:30**  
Tübingen hot spots (D.Besch/H.Jägle/T.Ladewig/S.Kustermann/U.Schraermeyer)

**18:45 – 22:00**  
Dinner

**Saturday, November 5th, 2005**

**Session II  Retina by heart**

**Chair:**  
Charlotte Remé and Don Hood

**09:00 - 9:20**  
Shomi Bhattacharya / London  
Molecular genetics of retinitis pigmentosa

**09:20 – 09:40**  
Alan Bird / London  
Autofluorescence and AMD

**09:40 – 10:00**  
Alan Wright / Edinburgh  
Sub-RPE deposit formation resulting from mutation in the short-chain collagen C1QTNF5 – a model for age-related macular degeneration

**10:00 – 10:20**  
Yozo Miyake / Nagoya-shi  
Some new definitions of hereditary retinal diseases

**10:20 – 10:45**  
Tübingen hot spots (B.Wissinger/S.Kohl/M.Seeliger)

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15:50 – 16:15  
Coffee break

**Session III  From Gene to eye disease**

**Chair:**  
Alan Bird and Yozo Miyake

**09:00 - 9:20**  
Shomi Bhattacharya / London  
Molecular genetics of retinitis pigmentosa

**09:20 – 09:40**  
Alan Bird / London  
Autofluorescence and AMD

**09:40 – 10:00**  
Alan Wright / Edinburgh  
Sub-RPE deposit formation resulting from mutation in the short-chain collagen C1QTNF5 – a model for age-related macular degeneration

**10:00 – 10:20**  
Yozo Miyake / Nagoya-shi  
Some new definitions of hereditary retinal diseases

**10:20 – 10:45**  
Tübingen hot spots (B.Wissinger/S.Kohl/M.Seeliger)

**11:20 – 11:50**  
Neil Miller / Baltimore  
The effects of Vigabatrin and Tiagabine on the eye

**11:50 – 12:10**  
Avinoam Safran / Genf  
Brain plasticity following lesions in visual pathways. Clinical implications

**12:10 – 12:30**  
Jonathan Horton / San Francisco  
Cortical mechanisms of strabismus

**12:30 – 12:50**  
Ulf Eysel / Bochum  
2D-representation of cortical activation caused by retinal implants

**12:50 – 13:15**  
Tübingen hot spots (U.Schiefer/A.Werner/H.Wilhelm/)

**Each contribution:**  
- 15 min. oral presentation + 5 min. discussion  
- Tübingen hot spots: 7 min.

**Organization committee**

Ulrich Schiefer (coordination)  
Elisabeth Nestler  
Doina Ruppert  
Helmut Wilhelm