

INSTITUTE FOR OPHTHALMIC RESEARCH

FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT FÜR AUGENHEILKUNDE

OPHTHALMIC RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

“The role of cell polarity regulators in retinal development and homeostasis”

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Photoreceptors are highly polarised cells, which develop from the retinal epithelium. In all epithelia studied so far, including photoreceptors, establishment and maintenance of a polarised phenotype depends on the integrated activity of several evolutionarily conserved proteins. In fact, mutations in polarity genes are linked to retinal degeneration in several species, including human. Therefore, unravelling their functions in model organisms will contribute to our understanding of ocular development and homeostasis.

Wednesday, 23 October 2019 – 9 am
Lecture Room CRONA, B4-220, Level 4



Prof. Knust studied biology in Düsseldorf and also obtained her PhD in 1979 from the University Düsseldorf. From 1980 to 1983, she worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Clinical Virology at the University Erlangen-München. In 1983, she moved to the University of Cologne, where she worked as an assistant Professor at the Institute of Developmental Biology, until 1988 when she became a Heisenberg fellow and continued her research at the University of Cologne and University of Colorado, Boulder/USA. In 1990, she became a full professor at the Institute of Developmental Biology at the University of Cologne and six years later, Prof. Knust became the Head of the Institute of Genetics at the Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf. Since 2007, Prof. Knust is Director and Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics (MPI-CBG) in Dresden. The laboratory of Prof. Knust investigates the development and maintenance of epithelial cell polarity using *Drosophila* and zebrafish as model organism.

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