

IOB Annual Retreat – Program

20-22 September 2026
Valbella Resort

Sunday 20 September 2026

09.00 Bus start from Basel

12.00 Arrival and event registration

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Welcome address

Moderator: Grace Kurian

Translation: From molecules to patients (Plenary talks)

14.05 Botond Roska and Bence György *“Optogenetic vision restoration”*

14.35 Jay Zoellin and Bence György *“Gene editing for macular degeneration”*

15.05 Mirella Barboni and Lucas Janeschitz-Kriegl *“Gene augmentation”*

15.35 Christina Fasser *“Development of therapies for eye diseases: The patient’s perspective”*

15.55 Break

16.15 Jörg Reinhardt and Botond Roska *“Fireside discussion”*

17.15 Break and check-in

18.00 Poster session 1

20.00 Dinner mixer

Monday 21 September 2026

Moderator: Simon Hansen

Plenary talks

09.30 Tiago Rodrigues and Cameron Cowan *“The molecular biology of myopia”*

10.00 Temurkhan Ayupov and Veronica Moreno-Juan *“Mitochondrial therapy for Optic Neuropathies”*

10.30 Break

11.00

Parallel workshops

1. Eric de la Fortelle and Bence György *"From academic discovery to start-up creation: Strategy, processes and pitfalls"*
2. Annette Keinath and Eren Turgut *"Designing competitive and realistic budgets for research projects"*
3. Nicolas Feltgen *"Solving challenging clinical cases: From symptoms to diagnosis"*

12.05

Group picture

12.30

Lunch

13.30

Free time

17.00

Poster session 2

19.30

Dinner

Tuesday 22 September 2026

Moderator: Josephine Jüttner

Flash talks

09.00

- 1 | Simon Hansen *"Multivalent nanobody-binders for potent VEGF inhibition"*
- 2 | Jannick Imbach *"In the bag: a scalable AAV5 platform to meet higher quality demands"*
- 3 | Guilherme Testa Silva *"Hunting optogenetic actuators in the wild: Metagenomics meets high-throughput electrophysiology."*
- 4 | Patricia Galliker *"Development of a personalized stem cell therapy for vision loss in corneal blindness"*
- 5 | Simone Picelli *"From short to long reads: single-cell RNA-sequencing with FLASH-seq"*
- 6 | Duygu Sigurdsson *"Gene therapy at single cell resolution"*

10.00

Break and hotel room check-out

10.50

- 1 | Felix Franke *"Why do we have functionally specialized retinal ganglion cells?"*
- 2 | Alvaro Herrero Navarro *"Cell-type targeting with engineered AAV capsids"*
- 3 | Larissa Utz *"Cell-type-focused compound screen in human organoids"*
- 4 | Dominique Siegenthaler *"Brain-wide activity following optogenetic therapy"*
- 5 | Junjie Huang *"Visual landmarks in the head direction system"*
- 6 | Mathieu Quinodoz *"Genetic variants in spliceosomal RNAs and proteins across human disease"*
- 7 | Tiana Koottungal *"Pixels to Precision"*

12.00

Poster award ceremony

12.15

Closing remarks

12.30

Lunch | Departure **early** bus

14.30

Regular bus departure