

Patient-reported outcomes in age-related macular degeneration

A **PhD position** is available in the *Ophthalmic Epidemiology and Neuroretinal Imaging Research Unit* at the **Department of Ophthalmology, University of Bonn Medical School, Germany**.

Age-related macular degeneration is the most common cause of visual impairment and blindness in all high-income countries. It impacts affected persons' quality of life and activities of daily living considerably, even in the early stages.

The PhD position will focus on the assessment of the impact of visual impairment on quality of life and other patient-reported outcomes as well as developing/refining existing instruments including their psychometric assessment using Rasch analysis, i.e. applied item response theory. The PhD will focus on the early stages of AMD. The PhD thesis will encompass the full breadth of scientific work including the drafting of study protocols, obtaining ethics approval where required, implementation of the study, data analysis and publication. Support and mentoring will be available at every step along the way. The PhD-position is embedded in a large, multi-national consortium funded by the European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative – the MACUSTAR consortium (www.macustar.eu).

The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated, team-oriented graduate with a strong interest in patient-reported outcomes and psychometrics. Experience with clinical or epidemiological research is advantageous as is a prior degree in psychology/psychometrics or linguistics, health sciences/vision and/or epidemiology. Previous work experience in ophthalmology, optometry, optics or orthoptics is desirable but not essential. Candidates should hold a diploma or a master's degree which qualifies for a PhD degree or a Promotion.

The PhD position will be integrated into the Bonn International Graduate School Clinical and Population Science (www.bigs-clinpopscience.de/) with regular seminars as well as supportive mentoring and other research infrastructure. Training in general scientific methods as well as more specialized methods employed by the research unit will be provided. Active participation in local, national and international conferences is expected. The positions will not take part in any teaching provided at the department. Successful candidates will be awarded a PhD, or alternatively a Promotion (Dr. rer. medic.).

The position is available now and is for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of an extension. Salary will be according to the German salary scale TV-L E13 (50%). The University of Bonn is an equal opportunity employer.

Questions concerning the project can be addressed to *Prof. Dr. med. Robert Finger*. Applications by email only can be sent to simone.kastenholz@ukbonn.de

Prof. Dr. Robert Finger
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Bonn Medical School
Sigmund-Freud-Str. 25, 53127 Bonn
Tel.: 0228-287-15505
Email: robert.finger@ukbonn.de