

Designing novel patient-relevant endpoints for sight-restoring clinical trials

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

With technical advances in gene therapy as well as retinal chip implants sight restoration has become possible. However, clinical trials of these interventions urgently need adequate endpoints as conventional vision tests do not capture the impact of sight restoration interventions.

The PhD position will focus on the further development and validation of quality of life and instrumental activities of daily living outcome measures. Both outcome measures were predeveloped in a Bionic Vision Consortium and are now tested further in a DFG (German Research Council) funded project. 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 the German Research Council Priority Programme SPP2127 – Gene and cell-based therapies for neuro-retinal degeneration.

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. Fluency in German and English is required.

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 (60%). 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

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