



DOG
Deutsche Ophthalmologische
Gesellschaft

Gesellschaft für Augenheilkunde



DOG 2020 online
October 9 through 11, 2020

Great turnout at online premiere

Online ophthalmologists' conference a great success

Berlin, October 2020 - For the first time in its 163-year history, the German Ophthalmological Society (DOG) hosted its conference as a virtual event. Held October 9 through 11, the new format, DOG 2020 online, drew a large number of participants: 2,668 attended scientific online sessions from their home screens, including 2,211 professional attendees. "I did not expect this massive interest and I am extremely pleased," said DOG President Professor Dr. med. Hans Hoerauf. The comprehensive event program included keynote lectures, ceremonial addresses, symposia, and freepaper oral sessions. All sessions will remain available online through December 6, 2020.

"DOG 2020 online was the only major advanced training event in German for ophthalmologists this year," said Professor Dr. med. Hoerauf, DOG President and Director of the Eye Clinic of the University Medical Center Göttingen. "Expectations and the level of anticipation were high, as were our nervousness levels for this premiere." To meet the requirements of an online format, the program content had to be compressed and the time slots for scientific sessions cut down. Nevertheless, the three-day conference program covered all relevant aspects of ophthalmology.

"While no online conference can fully replace a face-to-face event, the scientific exchange was excellent," concluded Hoerauf after the virtual premiere. "The moderators and speakers adapted their contributions perfectly to the new format. The presentations were extremely interesting and followed by lively discussions. We are very grateful to our speakers, who showed great flexibility in tackling the challenges of the new format and agreed to pre-record their presentations," added Prof. Hoerauf. "Special thanks are also due to all the hard workers behind the scenes, without whom the conference would not have happened. I am thinking in particular of the staff at the DOG office, the conference organizers, and the congress technicians."

The DOG President had decided to include a focus on the increasing economization of medicine. Among the most anticipated contributions

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was the keynote lecture by well-known economization critic Professor Dr. med. Giovanni Maio on “The medical profession today – unnecessary actions over patient care?” Professor Dr. med. Peter P. Pramstaller outlined defense strategies against economization in his much-noticed keynote “Save Medicine! Physicians between patient care and profitability”.

Other highlights included the keynote lecture by Professor Dr. med. Ferenc Kuhn, ISOT President and expert for severe eye injuries, described how doctor-patient communication may be improved even under challenging conditions. Last, but not least, Dr. med. Adrian Hopkins took a global perspective in his keynote lecture, gave an overview of Vision 2020 goals that have been achieved worldwide and those that need to be tackled in the future.

As in the years before, the case conferences were met with great interest. The Consilium diagnosticum in particular, though scheduled late in the evening, was, as always, attended at full capacity. The symposia, freepaper oral sessions, company symposia* also drew large numbers of attendees.

In total, the attending ophthalmologists could follow 575 scientific presentations and attend 75 sessions in 41 symposia, 10 updates, 12 moderated freepaper oral sessions, 3 keynote lectures, 13 Forum digital presentations, 4 ISOT sessions, and numerous work sessions. The virtual industry exhibition* included presentations of innovative products by 42 exhibitors in four exhibition halls as well as 44 company events.

“This having been our first virtual conference, all participants are at the beginning of the learning curve. The results are impressive. Still, we are grateful for constructive feedback as we don't know for how long we will have to rely on the online format,” Hoerauf said.

Also integrated in the online event were elements of the supporting program for the conference*. Attendees enjoyed the traditional concert by ophthalmologists for ophthalmologists, DOG in Concert, online via audio stream. Sports enthusiasts registered online for the charity Eye Run organized by the Stiftung Auge, the DOG Eye Foundation, ran a 5-k course of their choice between October 9 and 11, and sent in their results.

Next year's DOG 2021 will be held on September 30 through October 3, 2021, under the presidency of Professor Dr. med. Hagen Thieme, Director of the University Eye Clinic Magdeburg. “Hopefully, we will be able to meet face to face at the Berlin Estrel hotel for professional as well as personal exchange and encounters,” said Thieme.

The DOG 2020 online conference was preceded by the organization's general meeting in Berlin, where members of the Executive Committees



were elected or confirmed. The new President is Professor Dr. med. Hagen Thieme, Director of the University Eye Hospital Magdeburg. Professor Dr. med. Hans Hoerauf, Director of the University Eye Clinic in Cologne, has resigned from his office as President and is now Second Vice President.

Professor Dr. med. Gerd Geerling from Düsseldorf was elected First Vice President. Professor Dr. med. Claus Cursiefen succeeds Professor Dr. med. Thomas Reinhard as Secretary General.

The following were elected as new or returning members of the DOG Executive Committee: Professor Dr. med. Siegfried G. Priglinger (Munich) and Professor Dr. med. Gerd Geerling (Düsseldorf) as representatives of university lecturers who serve as ophthalmological directors of clinics or independent departments at universities or colleges; Professor Dr. rer. nat. Marius Ueffing (Tübingen) representing ophthalmology university lecturers qualified as professors who work exclusively in experimental ophthalmology; Professor Dr. med. Gerd Auffarth (Heidelberg) as DGII delegate; Professor Dr. med. Nicolas Feltgen (Göttingen) as delegate for the Retina Society; PD Dr. med. Katarina Stingl (Tübingen) as representative of the section DOG-Genetics; and Dr. med. Peter Heinz (Schlüsselheld) as delegate for the BVA. Professor Dr. med. Sabine Aisenbrey (Berlin) was appointed to succeed long-time auditor Professor Dr. med. Marcus Knorr (Trier).

* Industry exhibition and the supporting program organized by Interplan Congress, Meeting & Event Management AG Munich

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DOG: research – science – patient care

DOG is the medical science association of ophthalmologists in Germany. More than 7,750 doctors, researchers, and scientists in the field of ophthalmology are members. The key mission of the DOG is to promote ophthalmological research. The organization supports scientific projects and research studies, organizes conferences, and publishes scientific journals. DOG also supports and promotes young scientists and researchers, e.g. by offering stipends. Established 1857 in Heidelberg, DOG is the world's oldest ophthalmological society and the oldest medical specialists' association in Germany.