

The Barometer Program

Meet our Leadership Coalition



Professor Focke Ziemssen

Director of the Clinic and Polyclinic for Ophthalmology, University Hospital Leipzig, Germany

Focke Ziemssen is the newly appointed Director of the Clinic and Polyclinic for Ophthalmology at University Hospital Leipzig. He studied in Bochum, Bern and London, where the main focus of his doctoral research was the detection of new mutations in several neuromuscular and metabolic diseases, including maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY). Once he had completed his studies, he began his journey with the University of Tübingen as a physician at their University Eye Hospital in 2007, and was appointed as an adjunct professor in 2008. In 2017, he was appointed to Vice Director of the university's Centre for Ophthalmology before taking up his post in Leipzig in 2021.

Professor Ziemssen's research has focused on cellular mechanisms of retinal diseases, pathological myopia, and pharmacovigilance. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers and actively reviews for over 30 journals, including *The Lancet*, *Ophthalmology* and *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*. Furthermore, he has extensive experience as leading principal investigator of several phase 2, 3 and 4 clinical trials.

As a board member of the German Macula Commission and the German Retina Society (RG), Professor Ziemssen supports the development of clinical guidelines for the German Society of Ophthalmology (DOG) and the RG. Additionally, he is an active member of the Professional Association of Ophthalmologists in Germany (BVA), the American Diabetes Association and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes.

Professor Ziemssen further serves as vice chair of the ad-hoc committee for the early benefit assessment of newly approved drugs with the German Association of Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF), chairman of the interdisciplinary initiative 'Early Detection of Diabetic Eye Disease (IFdA)' and spokesman of the task force 'Seeing in Old Age' for the patient support organization German Blind and Visually Impaired Association (DBSV).

