

Botond Roska, M.D., Ph.D.

Co-Director of the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology, Basel

Nationality: Hungarian
Born: 1969



Prof. Botond Roska is one of the two founding directors of the IOB, the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel. He developed the concept that led to the set-up and foundation of the IOB in collaboration with Prof. Hendrik Scholl, the second director of the IOB. He is also professor at the University of Basel, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Roska received his M.D. degree at the Semmelweis Medical School in Budapest, Hungary. He completed his Ph.D. studies in neurobiology at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, before becoming a Harvard Society Fellow in genetics at Harvard University and Harvard Medical School, USA.

In 2005, he joined the renowned Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel, Switzerland, where he leads an interdisciplinary group of scientists working in the area of neuroscience, genetics and physiology with a focus on vision. His research has advanced the understanding of neuronal circuits in the retina, thalamus and cortex, and his group pioneered optogenetic therapy to restore vision to the blind.

Prof. Roska has received numerous prestigious honors and awards, including the Alcon Award, the Alfred Vogt Award, and the Cogan Award from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. He has authored over 68 articles and reviews in peer-reviewed journals and is a member of multiple scientific advisory and editorial boards.

Prof. Roska is married and lives with his wife and three children in the Basel area. As he also studied mathematics and violoncello during his time in Hungary, he enjoys writing mathematical proofs and playing the cello whenever time allows.