Prof. Dr. Charlotte Remé

Professor Charlotte Remé is a professor emeritus of the University of Zürich, Switzerland. After Medical School and residencies she took up postdoctoral training with Richard W. Young at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, working on the renewal mechanisms of retinal photoreceptors. This research led to the discovery of autophagy, a cellular mode of removing or recycling cytoplasmic constituents.

Upon her return to Zürich, in 1980 she founded the laboratory of retinal cell biology within the setting of the University Eye Clinic, Zürich and she began pioneering work on retinal circadian rhythms together with her colleagues Anna Wirz-Justice and Michael Terman. Later, her studies focused on the deleterious effects of bright light on the retina. This work led to the discovery that light can induce gene – regulated cell death by apoptosis. She and her team elucidated molecular mechanisms of retinal apoptosis and discovered the first gene directly involved in retinal apoptosis.

Over the years the laboratory, now headed by Professor Christian Grimm, has grown and expanded to include work on neuroprotection, visual pigment interactions and the generation of mouse models for retinal degenerations.

Presentation title:

How Our Retina Works: the Bright and the Dark Sides of Light.