

PRIVACY POLICY

Status: January 12, 2026

1. Introduction

In this Privacy Policy, we, the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel (hereinafter referred to as "IOB", "we," "us," or "our"), describe how we collect, use, store, disclose, and protect your personal data when you visit our website <https://www.iob.ch> (hereinafter referred to as "Website" or "Homepage"). This is not an exhaustive description; other data protection declarations or general terms and conditions, contractual or participation conditions, forms and similar documents may govern specific matters.

Personal data (also referred to as "data" in this document) refers to all information that can be related to you personally, such as name, address, email address, telephone number, photos, user behavior, IP address, etc.

When we rely on your consent, you may withdraw it at any time with effect for the future. If you withdraw your consent, we will cease processing your personal data for the relevant purpose, unless we have another legal ground to continue processing.

If you disclose data to us about other persons (e.g. family members, data of work colleagues), we assume that you are authorized to do so and that this data is correct and that you have ensured that these persons are informed about this disclosure (e.g. by bringing this privacy policy to their attention in advance).

This Privacy Notice provides information in accordance with the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP/DSG), the Information and Data Protection Act of the Canton of Basel-Stadt (IDG) where applicable, and – where relevant – the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union.

2. Who is responsible for processing your data?

Responsible for the data processing described in this Privacy Policy is:

Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel
Mittlere Strasse 91
4031 Basel

Switzerland

3. What data do we process?

User-provided data

When you contact us via email, phone, or online forms, we may collect personal data such as your name, address, email, phone number, or other personal data you voluntarily provide. We use this data to respond to your inquiries, provide information, and communicate with you.

If you register for any of our existing or future services, such as newsletters, or events, we may collect data such as name, email, or other relevant details to manage your registration, send confirmations, and provide updates.

Technical data (access data)

This is data that accrues in the course of using our electronic offerings (e.g. our website), such as IP address, information about the operating system of your terminal device, the region and the time of use. Technical data in themselves do not generally allow any conclusions to be drawn about your identity. However, they can be linked to other data categories (e.g. registration data) and thus possibly to your person.

Cookies and similar technologies

We use cookies (small text files stored on your device) to enhance user experience, analyze Website usage, and improve our services. Through these cookies, we automatically receive certain data such as IP address, browser type, and operating system. You can view which cookies have been set by our website through your browser settings and delete them if necessary. You may configure your browser to automatically reject or delete cookies, or to notify you when cookies are being set. However, doing so might limit the functionality of our website.

Web analytics tools

Our website may use *Google Analytics* as a web analysis component.

Privacy policy: <https://policies.google.com/privacy>

Web analysis (tracking) is the collection, compilation, and evaluation of data about the behavior of website users. A web analysis tool collects data on which website a person came from (referrer), which subpages were accessed, and how often and for how long a subpage was viewed. Web analysis is used to optimize our website and improve user experience. Please note that data collected via Google Analytics (or similar services) might be transferred and stored on servers located outside Switzerland or the EU.

Google maps

We may use the Google Maps API to display interactive maps and create route maps. When you use Google Maps on our website, information about your use (including your IP address) may be transmitted to Google servers in the US and stored there. Google may share information obtained through Maps with third parties if legally required or if third parties process this data on Google's behalf. You can prevent data transmission to Google by deactivating JavaScript in your browser, but this will disable map displays on our website. Google processes your personal data in the US and has submitted to the Swiss-US Privacy Shield.

Social media platforms

Our website may link to or integrate the following social media platforms:

X (formerly Twitter, twitter.com/privacy),

LinkedIn ([linkedin.com/legal/privacy-policy](https://www.linkedin.com/legal/privacy-policy)),

BlueSky (<https://bsky.social/about/support/privacy-policy>)

YouTube (<https://policies.google.com/privacy>)

Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/privacy>)

and other multimedia content providers.

Applicant data

This is data that arises in the context of an application for a job with us, such as professional history, education and training, references and data from public sources (e.g. social media and the Internet). This also includes information about criminal convictions as well as occupational/activity bans or extracts from criminal records.

Behavioral and preference data

This is data about your behavior and preferences, such as responses to electronic communications, navigation of our website, interactions with our social media profiles, participation in events.

Other data

This includes, for example, data arising in connection with official or judicial proceedings (e.g. files), data collected on the basis of health protection (e.g. protection concepts), photos, video or sound recordings that we produce or receive from third parties and on which you are recognizable (e.g. at events etc.), and participation in events.

4. For what purposes do we process your data?

Communication: In order to be able to communicate with you (e.g. to answer inquiries or to process contracts).

Recording, administration and processing of contracts: We process personal data in connection with the conclusion or execution of contracts with you, suppliers and service providers or other partners. This also includes the enforcement of legal claims arising from contracts (collection, legal proceedings, etc.), accounting, termination of contracts and public communication. We also process data as part of the application process and to initiate the employment relationship.

Registration: In order to use certain offers and services (e.g. login areas, applications processes, newsletter etc.), you need to register (directly with us or via external service providers), for which we process data.

Technical and physical access controls: For security purposes, we may request visitor lists and deploy access and surveillance systems at our main research facility.

Compliance with laws, directives and recommendations from authorities: We may process personal data as part of our compliance with laws and to fulfill any legal obligations. In addition, data may be processed in the course of internal investigations as well as external investigations (e.g. by a law enforcement or supervisory authority or a commissioned private body).

Risk management: We may process personal data as part of risk management (e.g. to safeguard house rules or to prevent and investigate criminal acts).

Other purposes: These include, for example, training and educational purposes, administrative purposes (e.g. the administration of master data or accounting), the protection of our rights and the evaluation and improvement of internal processes. The protection of other legitimate interests is also part of the further purposes, which cannot be named exhaustively.

5. Who do we disclose your data to?

Within the scope of our business activities and the purposes pursuant to Section 4, we also disclose data to third parties, insofar as this is permitted and appears to us to be appropriate, either because they process it for us or because they want to use it for their own purposes. This concerns in particular the following categories of recipients:

- Own service providers (e.g. banks, insurance companies), including order processors (such as IT providers)
- Suppliers, subcontractors and other business partners
- Domestic and foreign authorities, public bodies
- Media
- Public, including visitors to websites and social media
- Industries, associations and other bodies
- Other parties in potential or actual legal proceedings

All these categories of recipients may themselves involve third parties, so that your data may also become accessible to them. We can restrict processing by certain third parties (e.g. IT providers), but not by others (e.g. authorities, banks, etc.).

6. Will your data be transferred outside of Switzerland?

We process and store personal data primarily in Switzerland and the European Economic Area (EEA), but in exceptional cases potentially in any country in the world.

If a recipient is located in a country without adequate legal data protection, we ensure that appropriate measures are in place, such as entering into EU Standard Contractual Clauses or reliance on other legal mechanisms, to ensure an adequate level of data protection in the recipient country. We can waive this obligation if the recipient is already subject to a set of rules recognized in Europe to ensure data protection or if we can rely on an exemption clause. The latter may be the case in particular in legal proceedings abroad, in cases of overriding public interests or where the execution of the contract requires such disclosure, if you have given us your consent or if it is a matter of data that you have made generally accessible and you have not objected to its processing.

Please note that data exchanged over the Internet is often routed through third countries. Your data may therefore be transferred abroad even if the sender and recipient are in the same country.

7. How long is your data stored with us?

We process and store your data as long as necessary for fulfilling our contractual and legal obligations or for the purposes of processing. This includes the entire business relationship (from initiation to termination of a contract) and beyond in accordance with statutory retention and documentation obligations.

Data may be retained for the period during which claims can be asserted against us or as legally required or justified by legitimate business interests. When your data is no longer required for these purposes, it will be deleted or anonymized where possible.

8. What are your rights?

Under Swiss law, and where the GDPR applies, you have certain rights in connection with our data processing. You may, in particular, request rectification or erasure of your data, restrict or object to its processing, request the release of certain personal data in a standard electronic format or its transfer to other data controllers, or revoke consent, insofar as our processing is based on your consent.

If you wish to exercise your rights towards us, please contact us at info@iob.ch. In order for us to be able to exclude misuse, we may request additional information to verify your identity (e.g. with a copy of your passport or identity card).

Please note that these rights are subject to certain limitations and exceptions (e.g. to protect third parties, trade secrets or to comply with retention obligations). In particular, we may retain data as permitted by law to meet our legal obligations, exercise or defend legal claims, or for important public interest reasons. The exercise of these rights may also conflict with contractual agreements and this may have consequences such as the premature termination of the contract or cost consequences. We reserve the right to black out copies for reasons of data protection or confidentiality or to supply only excerpts.

9. How do we process data in connection with our website and social media platforms?

When using our website (incl. all digital offers), data is generated that is stored in logs (especially technical data, see section 3 of this Privacy Policy). In addition, we may use cookies and similar technologies to recognize website visitors, record their behavior and recognize preferences. Our website may contain links to external websites or resources operated by third parties. IOB has not reviewed these websites linked to ours via hyperlinks or displayed RSS feeds and assumes no liability for their content or for products, services, and other offers provided thereon. We do not have control over these external websites, nor do we review or endorse their content. We are not responsible for their privacy practices. We recommend you review their respective privacy notices for more information on how they process personal data.

We may operate pages and other online presences on social networks and other platforms operated by third parties and process data about you in this context. In doing so, we receive data from you (e.g., when you communicate with us or comment on our content) and from the platforms (e.g. statistics). The providers of the platforms may analyze your usage and process this data together with other data they have about you. They also process this data for their own purposes (e.g., marketing or platform management purposes), and act as their own data controllers for this purpose. For more information on processing by the platform operators, please refer to the privacy notices of the respective platforms (see section 3 of this Privacy Policy).

We are entitled, but not obliged, to check content before or after it is published on our online presences, to delete content without notice and, if necessary, to report it to the provider of the relevant platform.

10. Changes to this Privacy Policy

This privacy policy does not constitute any contract with you. IOB has the right to modify or update this Privacy Policy at any time in response to changing legal, technical, or business developments. When we update our Privacy Policy, we will post the new version on our website. The date at the top indicates when this Privacy Policy was last revised. We encourage you to periodically review this page to stay informed about how we protect your personal data.

11. Contact us

If you have any questions about this Privacy Policy, our data processing activities, or if you wish to exercise your rights, please contact us at info@iob.ch or it@iob.ch.

We are committed to working with you to obtain a fair resolution of any complaint or concerns about privacy.