

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

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

Nationality: Hungarian / Swiss

Born: 1969



Prof. Botond Roska is a founding director of IOB, the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel. He is also Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and at the Faculty of Science at the University of Basel.

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 led 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 Körber European Science Prize and the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine. He has authored over 83 articles and reviews in peer-reviewed journals and is a member of multiple scientific advisory and editorial boards.

Prof. Roska also studied mathematics and violoncello during his time in Hungary. He enjoys writing mathematical proofs and playing the cello whenever time allows.