



## Media release

Basel, June 23, 2020

### **New vision for the blind - Körber European Science Prize for Botond Roska**

*Professor Botond Roska, Director at the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel (IOB) and Professor at the University of Basel, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science, is to receive the Körber European Science Prize 2020, endowed with one million euros.*

The Körber European Science Prize is presented annually since 1985, honoring outstanding scientists working in Europe for their excellent and innovative research projects that are a major breakthrough and show great potential for possible application and international impact. The prize will be presented to Botond Roska on 7 September 2020 in Hamburg.

“I am very honored to have been selected by the Prize Search and Trustee Committees with top scientists from all over Europe”, says Botond Roska. “The prize is a great motivation for me and all molecular and clinical research colleagues at IOB working towards the same goal. It will help us to further accelerate the design and development of novel therapies to treat blinding diseases, in order to restore vision.”

Over recent years, the **Körber European Science Prize** has developed into a high-ranking European science prize. To date, the Körber Prize winners included six scientists who were later awarded the Nobel Prize.

At the **Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel (IOB)**, clinicians, clinical researchers and basic scientists work hand in hand to advance the understanding of vision and its diseases, and to develop new therapies for vision loss. IOB aims to change the practice of translational ophthalmology, by using the understanding of the structure, functioning and molecular composition of the many cell types in the human eye, and organoid models as a starting point for developing novel therapies.

The institute started its operations in 2018. It is constituted as a foundation, granting academic freedom to its scientists. Founding partners are the University Hospital Basel, the University of Basel and Novartis. The Canton of Basel-Stadt has granted the institute substantial financial support. [www.iob.ch](http://www.iob.ch)

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