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Professor of Ophthalmology

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**Short biography**

Born in Berlin, bkk went to medical school at the University of Heidelberg and at King's College, London. bkk graduated with medical approbation and doctorate dissertation from the University of Heidelberg.

She then trained in Ophthalmology at the University of Heidelberg for four years, already developing a special interest in clinical work with low vision patients.

After her specialization, she changed to a Consultant position at the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Saarland, Homburg. Following locums at the Universities of Cologne and Tuebingen she was appointed Head of the Section of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismology at the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Saarland in 1992. In addition, she is the Medical Chair of the State School for Orthoptics, University of Saarland.

During the following years, she added first congenital low vision and later acquired / adult low vision as main foci of her clinical and research interests. Close connections to neurology and neuroradiology resulted in research on the altered cerebral pathways in albinism in fMRI. She obtained the Habilitation (professional research thesis, Univ.-Doz.) at her University with research work concerning standardized morphological evaluation of findings in albinism and pointed out the high prevalence of optic nerve hypoplasia in albinism. She continuously enlarged the specialized center for low vision, including early intervention, organizing a low vision clinic with a manufacturer-independent choice of optical, electronic and adaptive low vision aids. In-house cooperation with two large schools for blind and visually impaired children (County of Saarland, County of Rheinland-Pfalz) soon lead to visually handicapped children being presented from Germany and adjacent countries. After winning of tenure proceedings for a professorship to the Department of Ophthalmology, Christian-Albrecht-University Kiel, she was bestowed an Extraordinary Professorship at the Medical Faculty, University of Saarland in 2004.

In 2012, she was elected by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Family & Health of Saarland to act as Ophthalmological Consultant for blind and visually handicapped citizens of Saarland in case of medical and / or social insurance judgment discrepancies. She has authored and co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed papers, 12 book chapters and is on the editorial board of several scientific journals. Professor Käsmann-Kellner is an enthusiastic teacher of clinical and research students and won the Saarland Prize of all High Schools and Universities for Good Teaching in 2013.

Since 1995, she voluntarily serves as Medical Advisor for NOAH Albinism Support e.V. Germany.

During this time, the group of persons with albinism seen by her grew to over 700 and she frequently gave presentations at the yearly meetings of NOAH Albinism Support Group. In addition, she counsels support groups for achromatopsia, aniridia and children with chromosomal alterations.

**Research interests**

Her main areas of research are low vision in infancy, delayed visual maturation, abnormal eye movements and nystagmus, albinism and aniridia. A special research interest is with systemic manifestations of albinism and aniridia. She is researching many aspects of nystagmus including correlation of clinical characteristics (phenotype) and genetics (genotype) in albinism and in aniridia. She is interested in diagnostics, genetics and pharmacological and surgical treatment of nystagmus and albinism. A special focus lies on phenotypically atypical albinism and the correlation of cerebral anomalies in the presence of optic nerve hypoplasia. She actively participated in 1EDA and 2EDA and was very sorry to have missed 3EDA due to an accident and therefore looks forward to 4EDA. She received the poster price of the German Ophthalmological Society in 2016 for her research of albinism and strabismus.