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### **Short biography**

Irene Gottlob graduated from the Medical School of the University of Vienna, Austria, where she also completed her training in Ophthalmology. She spent three years of research in the physiology of the visual system at the University of Vienna and then at the Max-Planck Institute for Physiological and Clinical Research in Bad Nauheim, Germany. During this time she became greatly attracted to the study of the connection between the eyes and the brain. She then undertook clinical and research fellowships in Paediatric Ophthalmology, Neuro-Ophthalmology and Oculoplastic Ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, USA. She obtained the Habilitation (Univ. Doz title) at the University of Vienna in 1990. Before she was appointed in 1999 as Professor and Chair in Ophthalmology at the University of Leicester she was Head of Department of Strabismus and Neuro-ophthalmology at St. Gall, Switzerland. She is currently leading the Ulverscroft Eye Unit at the University of Leicester. Her clinical subspecialties are Paediatric and Neuro-ophthalmology. She leads a large nystagmus clinic offering investigations of eye movements, genetics, and retinal abnormalities including optical coherence tomography at all ages including infants and young children who cannot co-operate with standard techniques. She has published over 180 articles and book chapters and is on the editorial board of several scientific Journals. Professor Gottlob is an enthusiastic teacher of clinical and research students and trainees.

### **Research interests**

Her main areas of research are abnormal eye movements, nystagmus and albinism. She is researching many aspects of nystagmus including correlation of clinical characteristics (phenotype) and genetics (genotype). She is interested in diagnostics, genetics and pharmacological and surgical treatment of nystagmus and albinism. Her group is also investigating several aspects of nystagmus for example how people with nystagmus read or quality of life of people with nystagmus. Recently her research has focused on retinal and optic nerve changes in nystagmus visualised by optical coherence tomography (OCT). Using Hand-Held OCT the Leicester Group has developed and validated methods to acquire retinal scans on small infants and young children who are too young to cooperate with standard OCT techniques. They have developed algorithms for fast diagnosis of the nystagmus type and prediction of visual acuity from the degree of foveal hypoplasia in albinism. Other research interest amblyopia and neurological disorders affecting the retinal structure.