

**Daniel Barthelmes, MD, PhD**

**European Leadership Development Program Class of 2013-2015**

**Project Abstract**

***Title of Project: Towards a European Fellowship Exchange Programme***

The aim of this project is to establish a basis for a European Fellowship Exchange Programme.

In contrast to Anglo-American countries where formal fellowships constitute an integral part in ophthalmology training, in many continental European countries such fellowships are not offered. Lack of subspecialty fellowship positions requires numerous young ophthalmologists to go to the UK or overseas.

Given the number of patients and hospitals as well as experienced & highly trained staff, it seems logical to establish a European Fellowship Exchange Programme that advances access to continental European resources. The proposed programme is to provide a formal high level of training in a subspecialty in ophthalmology and enable a closer collaboration between European Ophthalmologists.

Within this project a formal clinical fellowship position in medical retina at the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland, was established. The goal of the fellowship position is to provide an advanced level of training in the diagnosis and management of disorders of the retina and vitreous including uveitic conditions. Fellows will acquire the necessary clinical skills for the treatment of patients with vitreoretinal diseases by initial evaluation, treatment and long-term follow-up of in- and outpatients as well as by in-depth reading of subspecialty journals and texts as well as discussions and lectures. The program also offers participation in screening infants for ROP if desired. Fellows are trained to interpret various diagnostic imaging techniques including fluorescein angiography, ICG angiography, optical coherence tomography, ultrasonography, and electrophysiology. During the fellowship, the fellows are trained to perform various office procedures including various types of laser treatments as well as intravitreal and parabolbar injection of pharmaceutical agents.

The position will be advertised via the European Board of Ophthalmology and the European Society of Ophthalmology.