

# DGFG

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR  
GEWEBETRANSPLANTATION

GEMEINNÜTZIGE GESELLSCHAFT mbH



*Welcome to the  
**Eye Bank Network**  
of the DGFG*

## Tissue Bank Hannover

„Quality first! Research second.“ Dr. Lutz Blomberg

The Tissue Bank Hannover was founded as cornea bank by the Medical School Hannover (MHH) in 1985 and has been part of the network of the DGFG (former DSO-G) since 2005. In 2007, the cornea banks at the MHH, the University Hospital Leipzig and the University Hospital Dresden were merged into the new cleanroom bank, the current tissue bank of

the DGFG in Hannover. The team of the DGFG Tissue Bank Hannover processes corneal transplants for classical keratoplasty as well as, since 2015, pre-prepared corneal lamellae (PreCut Tissue) for DMEK. In addition, the employees process amniotic membranes and, since 2019, also the Amnio-Clip-plus, a ring covered with amniotic membrane.



### Tissue Bank Team (top down, left to right):

- Dr. med. Lutz Blomberg, FEBO (responsible Person = VP)
- Dr. med. Imke Wübbolt (deputy VP)
- Biol. M. Sc. Sandra Miño (VP, process implementation, tissue preparation)
- Julia Knakowski, MTA (tissue preparation)
- Katharina Alberg, BTA (tissue preparation)
- Damascina Rochow, BTA (tissue preparation)

## Cornea Bank Rostock

The Cornea Bank Rostock was founded in 1995 and is part of the DGFG network since 2008. In 2015, the University Medical Center Rostock became shareholder of the DGFG. In this course the DGFG has taken over the cornea bank.

„The Cornea Bank Rostock started over 25 years ago as part of the eye clinic of the University of Rostock. At first, corneas of the deceased were used for own patients. Since 2015, the Cornea Bank Rostock is part of the DGFG and a strong network partner. The donated corneas

from all over Germany are not only implanted in Rostock. In 2019, we were able to provide almost 500 patients nationwide with our transplants, who will be able to enjoy a significantly better quality of life again. All these achievements would not be possible without the help of the

numerous staff members of the DGFG (also the colleagues in the Cornea Bank Rostock), who are highly motivated to pursue their job at the highest quality level and with the highest ethical standards. Many thanks.“ Cornea Bank Rostock



### Tissue Bank Team (top down, left to right):

- Sabine Kopplow (tissue preparation, QM)
- Prof. Dr. med. Ria Beck (VP)
- Heike Brückmann (tissue preparation, QM)
- Stefanie Wiencke (deputy VP, quality management QM, tissue preparation)



## Cornea and Tissue Bank Schwerin

The Cornea und Tissue Bank Schwerin was founded in March 2006. In 2019, the team of the Schwerin Tissue Bank was able to process more than 420 corneal donations and around 30 placental donations. The corneal and amniotic transplants benefited patients in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and beyond.

The Cornea and Tissue Bank Schwerin is a non-profit organisation of the Helios Clinics Schwerin and the DGFG. It was founded with the aim of improving the care of patients from Mecklenburg-Western Po-

merania and far beyond with safe corneal transplants and amniotic membranes and to anchor it permanently in the non-profit sector.



### Tissue Bank Team (top down, left to right):

- Prof. Dr. med. Frank Wilhelm (VP)
- Kerstin Bruhns (administrative management)
- Magdalena Hinz (tissue preparation)
- Nadine Weczerek (tissue preparation)
- Ilona Tank (tissue preparation)





## Mitteldeutsche Cornea Bank Halle

*„To save eyesight is our mission.“ Prof. Dr. med. Arne Viestenz*

The Mitteldeutsche Cornea Bank Halle (MCH) was founded in 1998. Back in 2002, the MCH concluded a cooperation agreement with the former DGFG, the DSO-G. Today, the MCH processes between 320 and 350 corneal donations, provides around 150 amniotic transplants per year and prepares sclera.

### Tissue Bank Team:

Prof. Dr. med. Arne Viestenz (head of the MCH and VP)  
Dipl.-Biol. Diana Wille (deputy VP, QM representative)  
Dr. rer. nat. Sabine Foja (tissue preparation)  
Kathrin Lich, BTA (tissue preparation)  
Elke Vetter, professional MTA (tissue preparation)



## Knappschafts-Gewebebank Sulzbach

*„The Eye Clinic Sulzbach, together with the German Society for Tissue Transplantation (DGFG), has operated a specialized cleanroom tissue bank since 2015. In addition to providing high-quality corneal transplants, the Knappschafts-Gewebebank Sulzbach specializes the production of pre-prepared partial transplants (DMEK lamellae). With Sulzbach and Hannover, only two tissue banks in Germany have been approved by the Paul-Ehrlich Institute to manufacture and market these pre-prepared lamellae, so that more patients benefit from the particularly gentle DMEK transplantation technique.“*  
*Prof. Dr. Peter Szurman, Eye Clinic Sulzbach, Knappschaftsklinikum Saar*

In the Knappschafts-Gewebebank Sulzbach, the banking team processes 220 corneal donations per year and produces corneal transplants and pre-prepared corneal lamellas. Together with

the DGFG, the tissue bank is also working on three research projects: on so-called Rapid DMEK, on a dextran study and on PreCut DMEK.



### Tissue Bank Team (top down, left to right):

Prof. Dr. med. Peter Szurman (Head of the tissue bank, deputy VP)  
Dr. rer. nat. Silke Wahl (deputy VP, quality assurance and tissue preparation)  
Jannine Ludwig (tissue preparation)  
Dr. med. Arno Haus (VP)



## Cornea Bank Greifswald

*The Cornea Bank Greifswald processes corneas, sclera and amniotic membranes. Every year, the banking team processes between 600 and 800 corneas in accordance with strict drug law requirements.*

The Cornea Bank is part of the Clinic and Polyclinic for Ophthalmology at the University Medical Center Greifswald. The Cornea Bank can look back on a long tradition: It was founded at the beginning of 1993 and was thus the first cornea

bank in the new federal states in Germany. Former head of the tissue bank was Prof. Dr. med. Frank Wilhelm. Since 2007, the Cornea Bank Greifswald is part of the DGFG network.

### Tissue Bank Team:

Dr. med. Dorothea Hübner (VP)  
Dr. med. Sebastian Paul (deputy VP)  
Nadine Zehm (tissue preparation)  
Sebastian Kruschke (tissue preparation)



## Lions Cornea Bank Würzburg

„Thanks to the good cooperation with the DGFG we also have access to human corneas, which are used for various research projects.“ Dr. Dr. Daniel Kampik

The Lions Cornea Bank of the Eye Clinic of the University Hospital of Würzburg was founded in January 2013 and has been in the DGFG network from the beginning. The team of the Lions Cornea Bank processes about 220 corneal donations per year.

### Tissue Bank Team:

Dr. Dr. Daniel Kampik (VP)  
Dr. Luisa Thederan (quality management and assurance)  
Jaro Stühmer-Beckh (representative for quality assurance)  
Dr. Olga Lamm (representative for QM)  
Doris Deininger (tissue preparation)  
Ilona Pietrowski (tissue preparation)  
Dr. Hong Han (representative for tissue preparation)



## Lions Eye Bank Heidelberg

At the Lions Eye Bank Heidelberg, employees prepare corneal and amniotic transplants. The eye bank has been part of the DGFG network since June 2018 and is working together with the DGFG on a research project with limbal stem cells.

„In 1999, the work of the corneal bank at the University Hospital started. At that time, Prof. Völker was director of the eye clinic. He had commissioned Prof. Kruse to set up a cornea bank. In 2000, the bank was spun off and an application for the establishment of an exten-

ded cornea bank was submitted. Since then, microbiological examinations have been carried out in addition to serology. In 2003/2004, everything was set up and established. With Professor Auffarth as clinical director, the real work in the cornea bank could begin.“ Dr. Patrick Merz



### Tissue Bank Team:

Dr. rer. nat. Patrick R. Merz (VP/QM)  
Prof. Dr. med. Gerd U. Auffarth (deputy VP)  
Irina Vöhringer, MTA (tissue preparation)  
Brigitte Erber, MTA (tissue preparation)



## Tissue Bank Braunschweig

„Together with our cardiovascular tissue bank, we are pleased about the good cooperation within the network of the DGFG.“ Dr. med. Henk Garritsen

The Tissue Bank Braunschweig was founded in May 2014. The team of the Tissue Bank Braunschweig processes more than

100 corneal donations every year. Since its foundation, the tissue bank has also been part of the DGFG network.

### Tissue Bank Team:

Dr. med. Henk Garritsen (head of the tissue bank, VP)  
Jasmin Dalge (chief MTLA, tissue preparation)  
Isabell Röver (tissue preparation)  
Svenja Eltner (tissue preparation)  
Antje Berges (tissue preparation)  
Paul Prentkowski (tissue preparation)



## Eye Bank of the LMU University Clinic Munich

The staff from the eye bank processes more than 150 donor corneas per year, which come from the Institute for Forensic Medicine at the University of Munich and, since September 2019, from donations coordinated by the DGFG. Since 2019, the eye bank of the LMU clinic is part of the DGFG network.

In 1999, the Eye Clinic and the Forensic Medicine Department of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich founded the Eye Bank as part of the Bavari-

an Tissue Bank with the aim of obtaining high-quality corneal transplants and advancing research. The urgency to establish an own eye bank was high: At that

time there were not many tissue banks from which corneal transplants could be obtained.



### Tissue Bank Team (top down, left to right):

Prof. Dr. med. Wolfgang Mayer (head of the tissue bank),  
Dr. rer. biol. hum. Martina Schüller (laboratory management),  
Irena Cikota (technical assistant), Y. Bahtiyar (technical assistant, not in the picture)







Corneal transplantation has a medical tradition of more than 100 years. In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, donor corneas were transplanted immediately after removal. About 30 years later, after the first successful keratoplasty by Eduard Zirm in 1905, the longer durability of corneas and their storability could be proven. In the 1970s the first medium for corneal preservation was developed. In 1981, the first cornea bank in Germany was founded at the University Clinic Hamburg-Eppendorf.

***The Following Cornea or Tissue Banks are also part of the DGFG Network:***

**Cornea Bank Kiel** – cooperation partner since 2014

**Heart Valve Bank Kiel** – tissue bank of the DGFG since 2010

**Heart Valve Bank of the Tissue Bank Braunschweig** – cooperation partner since 2015

**Tissue Bank Berlin-Brandenburg of the University Clinic Charité Berlin** – cooperation partner since 2015

**German Institute for Cell and Tissue Replacement (DIZG)** – cooperation partner since 2009

## German Society for Tissue Transplantation

The German Society for Tissue Transplantation (DGFG) has been setting standards in tissue medicine for 20 years by organising tissue donation, cooperating with tissue banks and providing tissue for transplantation.

The DGFG is an independent non-profit organisation. From 1997 to 2007, the non-profit organisation for tissue transplantation (DSO-G) organised tissue donation as a subsidiary of the German Foundation for Organ Transplantation (DSO). The Tissue Act, established in Germany in 2007, led to a complete spatial and legal separation from the DSO and to the foundation of the DGFG.

Since then, the DGFG has built a network of numerous German clinics, tissue banks and transplant centers. The headquarters of the DGFG is in Hannover. The DGFG organises tissue donation at 31 locations nationwide and provides patients with corneas, amniotic tissue, heart valves, blood vessels and bone grafts. With corneal transplants, thousands of patients win back their quality

of life by regaining their sight every year – sometimes we can even save lives with heart valves and blood vessels. The DGFG is the largest tissue network in Germany! Four university hospitals and a diaconal clinic stand behind our society: The university clinics of Leipzig, Dresden and Rostock, the Medical School in Hannover and the Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Clinic Neuenbrandenburg.



More than 45 coordinators realise tissue donations in over 100 clinics in Germany day and night.

We realise tissue donation in

more than 100 hospitals nationwide.

We work together with 13 tissue banks.

We provide more than 120 transplant centers with corneas, 35 transplant programmes with heart valves and blood vessels and more than 40 clinics with amnion.

### This is what we do

- organisation of tissue donation throughout Germany
- tissue processing in 13 tissue banks
- allocation of tissue transplants nationwide
- quality management in all processes for highest standards
- research and development of new methods
- public relations work about tissue donation



● coordination location

▲ tissue bank

■ shareholder

■ headquarters

## Imprint

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Visit us online on

[www.gewebenetzwerk.de!](http://www.gewebenetzwerk.de)

There you will also find a film about our work in tissue donation here in Germany!

