

 FULL TITLE	Prevention and therapy of blinding retinal neuro-degenerations
ACRONYM	RETRAINET
COORDINATOR	Prof. E Zrenner (University Eye Hospital Tuebingen, Germany)
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KEY WORDS	Retinal degeneration; neuroretinal disorders; neuroprotection; genetics; therapy; animal models; training
SUMMARY	Remarkable recent advances in basic neurobiology, basic molecular biology and clinical electrophysiology have dramatically improved the prospects for finding effective treatments for tapetoretinal degenerative disorders, which is the driving force behind this joint effort to enhance our understanding of tapetoretinal degenerations and in training on how to develop rational treatment strategies for them. The main objective is to develop therapeutic approaches by a strong interaction among disciplines and, concerning the availability of viral vectors, ribozymes, growth factors and antiapoptotic agents to enhance the understanding of neuroprotective mechanisms and novel delivery techniques. Recent progress in this fields raises strong expectations of a major breakthrough in preventing, curing, or at least alleviating the consequences of the slow hereditary retinal degenerations as well as the negative effects of the degeneration of the macula, occurring in a large number of patients at an older age.
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BUDGET	1 000 000 €
PROJECT WEB-SITE	http://www.uak-swm.de/RETRAINET/index.html