

CURRICULUM VITAE

1. Personal data

- a. Name: Heinz Wässle
- b. Nationality: German and Austrian
- c. Date of birth: 11 October 1943
- d. Place of birth: Salzburg, Austria

2. Education

- a. Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich: Study of Physics - Nov. 1962 - Dec. 1968
- b. Max-Planck-Institute of Psychiatry - Training in Neurophysiology - Jan. 1969 - Feb. 1972

3. Degrees

- a. Masters Degree in Physics, "Magna cum laude"
(Diplomphysiker, Universität München, 20 Dec. 1968)
- b. Doctor of Philosophy in Physics, "Summa cum laude"
(Dr. rer. nat., Universität München, 25 Feb. 1972)
- c. Habilitation in Physiological Psychology and Animal Physiology
(Universität Konstanz, 19 Apr. 1978)
- d. Professor of Biology
(Universität Mainz, 26 Oct. 1982)

4. Previous appointments

May 1967 - Dec 1968	Institute of Medical Optics, Department of Physics, University of Munich
Jan 1969 - Mar 1973	Dept. of Neurophysiology, Max-Planck-Institute of Psychiatry, Munich
Mar 1972 - May 1972	Dept. Biophysics, King's College, University of London
Apr 1973 - May 1974	Dept. of Physiology, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra
June 1974 - June 1977	Dept Physiological Psychology, University of Constance
July 1977 - July 1981	Friedrich-Miescher-Laboratorium of the Max-Planck-Society, Tübingen
Aug 1981 - Oct 2008	Director, Dept. Neuroanatomy, Max-Planck-Institute for Brain Research, Frankfurt

5. Experimental research

During my studies of physics at the University of Munich I developed an interest in physiological optics and, therefore joined the Institute of Medical Optics, University of Munich. There I performed experiments in the psychophysics of vision to obtain my Masters degree in Physics (Diplomarbeit).

In order to learn more about the neurophysiological basis of vision, I joined the laboratory of Otto D. Creutzfeldt at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psychiatry in Munich. Under his supervision I studied the different components of the visual system which limit spatial resolution. I measured the modulation transfer function of the cat eye and, by electrophysiological recordings, the grating resolution of individual ganglion cells. Furthermore I simulated in a homogeneous network of neurons how excitation and inhibition influence spatial resolution. Based on this work I obtained a Ph.D. in Physics. At the same time I attended a graduate program in neurobiology sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Because visual acuity is limited by the sampling properties of the retina, I wanted to learn more about retinal circuitry. I spent part of 1972 in London, working with Brian Boycott, F.R.S., in the MRC Cell Biophysics Unit, Department of Biophysics, King's College, London. We succeeded in morphologically classifying cat retinal ganglion cells and thus defining the anatomical basis of parallel processing in the ascending visual pathway.

In 1973 I went for a postdoctoral training to the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra (Australia). In the lab of Peter Bishop, F.R.S., I worked with Brian Cleland and William R. Levick, F.R.S., on a physiological/morphological identification of retinal ganglion cells. We showed that the physiological brisk-transient (Y) cells corresponds to the morphological alpha cell type.

After returning to Germany I was able to establish my own small lab at the University of Constance. The structure and function of the mammalian retina was in the meantime my major scientific interest. Leo Peichl was my first Ph.D. student and in a continued co-operation with Brian Boycott, F.R.S., we studied the mosaics of retinal neurons, established their regular arrays and the territorial behaviour of their dendritic fields. This type of analysis was performed for horizontal cells and different classes of retinal ganglion cells. The independent mosaics of ON- and OFF-ganglion cells were established.

In 1977 the Max-Planck-Society offered me a group leader position (Nachwuchsgruppenleiter) at the Friedrich-Miescher Laboratory in Tübingen. During the four years in Tübingen we worked on the projection of the different ganglion cell classes to the visual centers of the brain thus elaborating further the idea of parallel pathways in the visual system. We also continued our studies of retinal mosaics and retinal circuits. We started to work on retinal transmitters using iontophoresis and extracellular recordings from the *in vivo* retina. By these approaches we could show, how inhibitory neurotransmitters such as GABA and glycine influence light responses of retinal ganglion cells.

In 1980 the Max-Planck-Society offered me the Directorship of the Department of Neuroanatomy at the Max-Planck-Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt (Main). In 1981 we moved the lab to Frankfurt and continued our studies of mammalian retinal organization. Immunocytochemical methods became available for selective labeling of cell types and for the study of retinal circuits. In addition we used electron microscopy to study synaptic interactions in the retina. We also established during the years different *in vitro* models (dissociated cells, retinal slices and retinal whole mounts) and studied retinal circuits in the rat with the patch clamp method. In parallel we performed an anatomical analysis of the primate retina. The focus of our work was on the rod circuit of the mammalian retina and on parallel pathways through the primate retina. Both in rodents and in primates we were able to identify at least 10 different types of bipolar cells and study their connectivity. In recent years we have become very much involved with transmitter-receptors in the retina and their synaptic localization. In this context most of our studies are

now performed on the mouse retina because of the continuously increasing availability of mutant mice which offer the possibility to delete specific transmitter receptors and also to label circuits by the expression of molecular markers such as green fluorescent protein. Although this involved more and more molecular tools, the question of how the eye, the window to the brain, works was always in the center of our interest. In 2008 the Department of Neuroanatomy was closed because of my retirement.

6. List of publications

1. Wässle, H. und Heinrich, F. (1970). Untersuchungen zum Helligkeitskontrast. *Vision Res.* 10, 361-373.
2. Wässle, H. (1971). Optical quality of the cat eye. *Vision.Res.* 11, 995-1006.
3. Singer, W. and Wässle, H. (1971). The lateral geniculate body: a multichannel filter for spatial and temporal stimulus parameters. *Proc. of First European Biophysics Congress.* (E. Broda, A. Locker and H. Springer-Lederer, Herausgeber: Wiener Medizinische Akademie).
4. Wässle, H. and Creutzfeldt, O.D. (1973). Spatial resolution in the visual system. A theoretical and experimental study on single units in the cat's lateral geniculate body. *J. Neurophysiol.* 36, 13-27.
5. Boycott, B.B. and Wässle, H. (1974). The morphological types of ganglion cells of the domestic cat's retina. *J. Physiol.* 240, 397-419.
6. Wässle, H., Levick, W.R. and Cleland, B.G. (1975). The distribution of the alpha type of ganglion cells in the cat's retina. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 159, 419-438.
7. Cleland, B.G., Levick, W.R. and Wässle, H. (1975). Physiological identification of a morphological class of cat retinal ganglion cells. *J. Physiol.* 248, 151-171.
8. Kirk, D.L., Cleland, B.G., Wässle, H. and Levick, W.R. (1975). Axonal conduction latencies of cat retinal ganglion cells in central and peripheral retina. *Exp. Brain Res.* 23, 85-90.
9. Wässle, H., Levick, W.R., Kirk, D.L. and Cleland, B.G. (1975). Axonal conduction velocity and perikaryal size. *Exp. Neurol.* 49, 246-251.
10. Kirk, D.L., Levick, W.R., Cleland, B.G. and Wässle, H. (1976). Crossed and uncrossed representation of the visual field by brisk-sustained and brisk-transient cat retinal ganglion cells. *Vision Res.* 16, 225-231.
11. Wässle, H. (1975). A stereotaxic headholder for visual neurophysiology. *Exp., Brain Res.* 23, 151-156.

12. Hughes, A. and Wässle, H. (1976). The cat optic nerve: Fibre total count and diameter spectrum. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 169, 171-184.
13. Wässle, H. and Riemann, H.J. (1978). The mosaic of nerve cells in the mammalian retina. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 200, 441-461.
14. Skrandies, W. Wässle, H. and Peichl, L. (1978). Are field potentials an appropriate method for demonstrating connections in the brain. *Exp. Neurol.* 60, 509-521.
15. Boycott, B.B., Peichl, L. and Wässle, H. (1978). Morphological types of horizontal cells in the retina of the domestic cat. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 203, 247-267.
16. Wässle, H., Boycott, B.B. and Peichl, L. (1978). Receptor contacts of horizontal cells in the retina of the domestic cat. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 203, 247-267.
17. Wässle, H., Peichl, L. and Boycott, B.B. (1978). Topography of horizontal cells in the retina of the domestic cat. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 203, 269-291.
18. Peichl, L. and Wässle, H. (1979). Size, scatter and coverage of ganglion cell receptive field centres in the cat retina. *J. Physiol.* 291, 117-141.
19. Illing, R.-B. and Wässle, H. (1979). Visualization of the HRP reaction product using the polarization microscope. *Neurosci. Lett.* 13, 7-11.
20. Hughes, A. and Wässle, H. (1979). An estimate of image quality in the rat eye. *Invest. Ophthalmol.* 18, 878-881.
21. Wässle, H., Peichl, L. and Boycott, B.B. (1979). Quantification of horizontal cells in the domestic cat retina. *Progress in Brain Research*, Vol. 51 (eds. M. Cuenod, G.W. Kreutzberg and F.E. Bloom). Elsevier, Amsterdam, pp. 373-388.
22. Wässle, H., Illing, R.-B. and Peichl, L. (1979). Morphologische Klassen und zentrale Projektion von Ganglienzellen in der Retina der Katze. *Verhandlungen der Deutschen Zoologischen Gesellschaft* (Hrsg. W. Rathmayer). Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, pp. 180-193.
23. Wässle, H. and Illing, R.-B. (1980). The retinal projection to the superior colliculus in the cat: a quantitative study with HRP. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 190, 333-356.
24. Wässle, H. and Hausen, K. (1981). Extracellular marking and retrograde labelling of neurons. In: *Techniques in Neuroanatomical Research* (Eds.: Ch. Heym and W.G. Forssmann). Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, pp. 317-338.
25. Peichl, L. and Wässle, H. (1981). Morphological identification of on- and off-centre brisk transient(Y) cells in the cat retina. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 212, 139-156.
26. Wässle, H., Peichl, L. and Boycott, B.B. (1981). Morphology and topography of on- and off-alpha cells in the cat retina. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 212, 157-175.

27. Wässle, H., Boycott, B.B. and Illing, R.-B. (1981). Morphology and mosaic of on- and off-beta cells in the cat retina and some functional considerations. *Proc. Roy. Soc. B.* 212, 177-195.
28. Wässle, H. (1981). Morphological types and topographical distribution of ganglion cells in the cat retina. *Adv. Physiol. Sci.* Vol. 2. *Regulatory Functions of the CNS Subsystems.* J. Szentagothai, J. Hamori, M. Palkovits (eds). pp. 245-254.
29. Vaney, D.I., Peichl, L., Wässle, H. and Illing, R.-B. (1981). Almost all ganglion cells in the rabbit retina project to the superior colliculus. *Brain Res.* 212, 447-453.
30. Wässle, H., Peichl, L. and Boycott, B.B. (1981). Dendritic territories of cat retinal ganglion cells. *Nature* 292, 344-345.
31. Illing, R. B. and Wässle, H. (1981). The retinal projection to the thalamus in the cat: quantitative investigation and a comparison with the retinotectal pathway. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 202, 265-285.
32. Wässle, H. (1982). Morphological types and central projections of ganglion cells in the cat retina. *Progress in Retinal Research.* (Eds. N. Osborne and G. Chader) Pergamon Press, Oxford, New York, Frankfurt, Paris, pp. 125-152.
33. Bolz, J., Rosner, G. and Wässle, H. (1982). Response latency of brisk-sustained(X) and brisk-transient(Y) cells in the cat retina. *J. Physiol.* 328, 171-190.
34. Wässle, H., Peichl, L. and Boycott, B.B. (1983). Mosaics and territories of cat retinal ganglion cells. *Progress in Brain Research* 58, 183-190.
35. Peichl, L. and Wässle, H. (1983). The structural correlate of the receptive field centre of alpha ganglion cells in the cat retina. *J. Physiol.* 341, 309-324.
36. Wässle, H., Peichl, L. and Boycott, B.B. (1983). A spatial analysis of ON- and OFF-ganglion cells in the cat retina. *Vision Res.* 23, 1151-1160.
37. Voigt, T., Naito, J. and Wässle, H. (1983). Retinotopic scatter of optic tract fibres in the cat. *Exp. Brain Res.* 52, 25-33.
38. Thier, P. and Wässle, H. (1984). Indoleamine-mediated reciprocal modulation of ON- and OFF-ganglion cells in the retina of the cat. *J. Physiol.* 351, 613-630.
39. Bolz, J., Wässle, H. and Thier, P. (1984). Pharmacological modulation of ON- and OFF-ganglion cells in the cat retina. *Neuroscience* 12, 875-885.
40. Wässle, H. (1984). Retinale Ganglienzellen und ihre Projektion in die visuellen Gehirnzentren. In: *Pathophysiologie des Sehens.* V. Herzau (Hrsg.), Ferdinand Enke Verlag Stuttgart, 1984, pp. 2-9.

41. Wässle, H. (1985). Auge und Gehirn: Informationsverarbeitung im visuellen System der Säugetiere. In: Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Ärzte, 113. Versammlung, Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Stuttgart, pp. 227-242.
42. Bolz, J., Frumkes, T., Voigt, T. and Wässle, H. (1985). Action and localization of gamma-aminobutyric acid in the cat retina. *J. Physiol.* 362, 369-393.
43. Bolz, J., Thier, P., Voigt, T. and Wässle, H. (1985). Action and localization of glycine and taurine in the cat retina. *J. Physiol.* 362, 395-413.
44. Schmidt, M., Wässle, H. and Humphrey, M. (1985). Number and distribution of putative cholinergic neurons in the cat retina. *Neurosci. Lett.* 59, 235-240.
45. Eysel, U.T., Peichl, L. and Wässle, H. (1985). Dendritic plasticity in the early postnatal feline retina: quantitative characteristics and sensitive period. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 242, 134-145.
46. Wässle, H., Schäfer-Trenkler, I. and Voigt, T. (1986). Analysis of a glycinergic inhibitory pathway in the cat retina. *J. Neurosci.* 6, 594-604.
47. Wässle, H. (1986). Auge und Gehirn: Informationsverarbeitung im visuellen System der Säugetiere. *UMSCHAU* 5, 290-296.
48. Karschin, A., Wässle, H. and Schnitzer, J. (1986). Shape and distribution of astrocytes in the cat retina. *Invest. Ophthalmol Vis. Sci.*, 27, 828-831.
49. Karschin, A., Wässle, H. and Schnitzer, J. (1986). Immunocytochemical studies on astroglia of the cat retina under normal and pathological conditions. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 249, 564-576.
50. Wässle, H., Voigt, T., Schmidt, M. and Humphrey, M. (1986). Action and localization of neurotransmitters in the cat retina. *Neurosci. Res.* 4, 181-195.
51. Wässle, H. (1986). Sampling of visual space by retinal ganglion cells. In: *Visual Neuroscience*. (Eds. J.D. Pettigrew, K.J. Sanderson & W.R. Levick) Cambridge University Press, pp. 19-32.
52. Jäger, J. and Wässle, H. (1987). Localization of glycine uptake and receptors in the cat retina. *Neurosci. Lett.* 75, 147-151.
53. Röhrenbeck, J., Wässle, H. and Heizmann, C.W. (1987). Immunocytochemical labelling of horizontal cells in mammalian retina using antibodies against calcium-binding proteins. *Neurosci. Lett.* 77, 255-260.
54. Wässle, H., Voigt, T. and Patel, B.T. (1987). Morphological and immunocytochemical identification of indoleamine-accumulating neurons in the cat retina. *J. Neurosci.* 7, 1574-1586.

55. Schmidt, M., Humphrey, M.F. and Wässle, H. (1987). Action and localization of acetylcholine in the cat retina. *J. Neurophysiol.* 58, 997-1015.
56. Wässle, H., Chun, M.H. and Müller, F. (1987). Amacrine cells in the ganglion cell layer of the cat retina. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 265, 391-408.
57. Voigt, T. and Wässle, H. (1987). Dopaminergic innervation of All amacrine cells in mammalian retina. *J. Neurosci.* 7, 4115-4128.
58. Wässle, H. (1988). Dendritic maturation of retinal ganglion cells. *Trends in Neuroscience* 11, 87-89.
59. Wässle, H., Chun, M.-H., Voigt, T. and Schmidt, M. (1988). Transmitter localization in the mammalian retina. In: "Sense Organs. Interfaces between Environment and Behaviour". Eds.: N. Elsner and F.G. Barth, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, pp. 47-55.
60. Skrandies, W. and Wässle, H. (1988). Dopamine and serotonin in cat retina: electroretinography and histology. *Exp. Brain Res.* 71, 231-240.
61. Müller, F., Wässle, H. and Voigt, T. (1988). Pharmacological modulation of the rod pathway in the cat retina. *J. Neurophysiol.* 59, 1657-1672.
62. Brecha, N., Johnson, D., Peichl, L. and Wässle, H. (1988). Cholinergic amacrine cells of the rabbit retina contain glutamate decarboxylase and gamma-aminobutyrate immunoreactivity. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85, 6187-6191.
63. Wässle, H. and Chun, M.-H. (1988). Dopaminergic and indoleamine-accumulating amacrine cells express GABA-like immunoreactivity in the cat retina. *J. Neurosci.* 8, 3383-3394.
64. Chun, M.-H., Wässle, H. and Brecha, N. (1988). Colocalization of (³H)muscimol uptake and choline acetyltransferase immunoreactivity in amacrine cells of the cat retina. *Neurosci. Lett.* 94, 259-263.
65. Wässle, H. and Chun, M.-H. (1989). GABA-like immunoreactivity in the cat retina: light microscopy. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 279, 43-54.
66. Chun, M.-H. and Wässle, H. (1989). GABA-like immunoreactivity in the cat retina: electron microscopy. *J. Comp. Neurol.* 279, 55-67.
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75. Boos, R., Müller, F. and Wässle, H. (1990). Actions of excitatory amino acids in the cat retina. *J. Neurophysiol.* 64, 1368-1379.
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