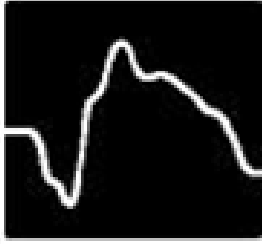


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**International Society for Clinical
Electrophysiology of Vision**

The Eberhardt Dodt Award

**The first 25 years:
in the words of the scientists who received it**

**Presented to Mrs Elke Dodt
at the 59th conference of the International Society for
Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision, Liverpool, UK
August 6th 2022**

Professor Eberhardt Dodt

(1923-1994)



Eberhardt Dodt studied medicine in Freiburg, Erlangen and Marburg in the 1940's. In Freiburg, he was influenced by the eminent neurophysiologist Paul Hoffmann. He became interested in the physiology of the eye, and in the early 1950's, worked with Ragnar Granit in the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. In 1955, he took up a position at the Kerkhoff Institute of the Max Planck Society at Bad Nauheim in Germany and became a member of the medical faculty of Giessen University. He became a member of the Max Planck Society in 1962. Professor Dodt spend the remainder of his academic career at Bad Nauheim, where he trained and encouraged many young scientists, many of whom went on to forge eminent scientific careers of their own. Professor Dodt was an active member of ISCEV for many years.

The Dodt Award was established in 1996 by Mrs Elke Dodt in memory of her husband and has been awarded every year since that time with the exception of 2021 when the global SARS-CoV2 pandemic prevented ISCEV from holding a meeting.

As the centenary of Professor Dodt's birth approaches, ISCEV commemorates his legacy in the words of the 25 scientists who have received this prestigious award.

1996

Maria Kraemer – Sweden.

I was the first scholar of the Dodt Award in 1996. I was just out of medical school and had started my research in neonates in the Childrens Eye Dept in Gothenburg. It was my first visit to a congress and my first presentation at a scientific meeting. I had investigated the normal development of newborns' flash-VEP . The paper and the presentation was well received by colleagues and it led to discussions. Several prominent and excellent researchers were present at the meeting in Tübingen but still it was a familiar atmosphere. The award gave me a push to continue the work, and during some years I continued my scientific work, at the same time as I started my clinical career. My licentiate was presented in 1998 and I attended several ISCEV meetings during these years and wrote on my thesis. At that time the clinical work became more and more thrilling and interesting and since 2004 I have worked full-time as an ophthalmologist. My main interest is in the field of pediatric ophthalmology, and especially in strabismus. In the late nineties I had not decided what area of medicine I would continue to work with, but the Dodt prize very much helped me in a positive way to choose a direction into the area of ophthalmology and children. It was such an honour to receive the award in 1996, and I will always remember with delight the ISCEV meeting in Tübingen, the award ceremony and the thunder we experienced at the castle during the banquet!

1997

Artur Cideycian – USA.

Dear Mrs Dodt,

This a short note of appreciation for receiving the Eberhardt Dodt Memorial award in 1997. At the time, I was early in my career only five years from finishing my doctoral studies. My interest was, and has remained for the last 30 years, to study disease mechanisms in inherited retinal diseases, and evaluate efficacy and safety of potential treatments. In the process, I have had many opportunities to jump back and forth between animal models and human patients. One of the techniques most relevant to evaluating visual function across species is, of course, electroretinography. The Eberhardt Dodt Memorial award was very significant in helping my career in this area.

Thank you very much,

Artur V. Cideciyan, PhD

Research Professor of Ophthalmology

1998

Claudio Macaluso – Italy.

June the 17th, Wednesday afternoon. We all reached Prague by coach from Hradec Králové, the 1998 ISCEV meeting venue. In my hotel room the phone on the desk rang, and to my complete surprise it was Colin Barber, announcing the assignment of the Dodt Award. Actually, that was not the time for compliments: his unmistakable, calm voice was *urging* me to *immediately* get to the Aula of historical Carolinum in Prague for the Ceremony!

I still consider such a great honour that a group among the most experienced and respected experts in the field happened to enjoy the ideas and the results presented in my paper, and ultimately decided to select it.

It was a truly memorable moment in my life in such a solemn and beautiful venue when Mrs Elke Dodt congratulated and handed the award to me. An especially meaningful recognition, as it commemorates the work and life of a scientist and mentor, and a gesture of generosity and commitment by Mrs Dodt willing to perpetuate Prof. Eberhart Dodt's values for the benefit of the ISCEV community since so many years.

Receiving the Dodt Award had several positive influences on my work and career, the most immediate being the means to attend the 2000 ISCEV Meeting in Sydney. Both the consequent strong personal encouragement and the enhanced recognition of my work have been instrumental in completing the visual electrophysiology lab at my University in Parma, in collaborating with groups in the newborn field of combining phenotype with genotype in hereditary retinal degenerations, and also in promoting "our" field among many colleagues in Italy, particularly through the popularization and adoption of ISCEV standards.

But probably the most meaningful aspect that makes the Dodt Award so special, is simply being an award from ISCEV. In my personal experience no other society, from ARVO to any other in different fields of Ophthalmology, has ever matched such a unique combination of scientific commitment and warm friendship.

1999

Hartmut Schwahn – Germany

Dear Mrs. Dodt,

I am very grateful for having received the Dodt Award in 1999 as a young researcher at the ISCEV meeting in Eilat (Israel) for my preliminary work on the effects of ethanol on the homeostasis of the retina in a perfused in vitro retina in the lab of Prof. Eberhart Zrenner in Tübingen. I continued to employ my in vitro retina setup, adopted from the late Prof. Roy Steinberg, San Francisco, and Sheldon Miller, Berkeley, to investigate the early concepts of atropine influencing the development of progressive myopia in a chick model with the research group of Prof. Frank Schaeffel. In my post-doc position at Prof. Zrenner's lab, we developed and performed in vivo ERG and multichannel VEP recordings in various animal models for a proof-of-concept of a subretinal (silicon) chip to restore vision in blind patients.

With the broad technical knowledge, rich methodology, and the passion for exact and objective approaches one could gain from experimental and clinical electrophysiology of vision, I decided to move forward and study law. After 4 years of study plus training on the job, I eventually became, a German and European patent attorney. I supported my clients on their pioneer inventions *inter alia* on bioreactors for in vitro organs, automated high throughput production of human multilayered tissue for in vitro testing, retina organ-on-a-chip and organoids. By coincidence, I also supported and prepared some patents on advanced microscopy of biological tissue by inventor Prof. Hans-Ulrich Dodt.

Very recently, however, my friends and former co-workers from the Tübingen days - all of Prof. Zrenner's and Prof. Schaeffel's "breed" – approached me and asked me to provide exclusive support in Intellectual Property matters for dedicated Ophthalmology research, but also to set up and co-coach an independent privately and third-party funded interdisciplinary research group on clinical myopia. So, it seems that my passion for experimental eye research never ceased, and now I am back in teams of talented young scientist which I have the pleasure to work with and to support legally and scientifically.

I very much hope that the Dodt Award will continue to encourage young scientists to do great work in the rewarding field of clinical and experimental Ophthalmology.

2000

L.S.Mohan Ram – India

It gives me a great pleasure to be part of the unique group of Dodt awardees of ISCEV.

With my mentor Dr Jalali at the L V Prasad eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, we were possibly the first members from India to join ISCEV at a time in the 90s when ocular electrophysiology was still at a very nascent stage in India.

The ISCEV conference in Sydney in 2000 was my first meeting, and I presented the zari-thread as an ERG electrode that was used in Indian saree industry. The work led me to the Dodt award. Getting the award very early in my career allowed me the opportunity to attend subsequent ISCEV meetings and this became a very good chance to meet the global leaders in electrophysiology and to learn from them.

The encouragement from the Dodt award had a profound influence not only on me as the awardee, but on a trail of events that ensued in making clinical visual electrophysiology visible in India. This included setting up of an ongoing dedicated one-month hands-on visual electrophysiology course first time in India, in the year 2001, at LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, that has now trained a score of electrophysiologists across the country; the first ISCEV approved hands-on workshop followed by the first ISCEV annual meeting in Hyderabad, in 2007. The Indian Society for Clinical electrophysiology of Vision (INSCEV) was also founded in 2016 and continues to influence the education and the practice of Visual electrophysiology in India.

Currently I'm working in Singapore National Eye Center, Singapore as an ophthalmic investigation specialist.

2001

Alison Mackay – UK.

I was halfway through my PhD, and 26 years old when I travelled to Quebec for ISCEV 2001 (having received a travel grant). I unexpectedly won the Eberhardt Dodt award for young investigators and was amused to be asked to change out of my jeans into 'proper clothes' to receive it. If it happened now, anticipation and performance anxiety may cause me to fall off the stage.

Like many postgraduates, I was working long hours and wasn't sure if I was making the grade or indeed progress. Winning gave me belief in myself and more confidence in tackling the significant technical and scientific challenges of the next 18 months. The award also gave me the insight that an outside perspective on your work is essential. My youthful appearance and gregarious nature resulted in everyone being very kind, and I acknowledge that this rite of passage might have been more difficult for my male predecessors.

The prize brought positive attention to the work of the Department of Clinical Physics and Bioengineering in Glasgow, UK, and has perhaps influenced ISCEV's choice of President all these years later. Financially, the prize funded an unforgettable trip to Japan for ISCEV 2003, and resulted in a few international fans. Some of the attention following the success of my PhD project was difficult for me, and from 2005 -2009 I worked on my research from home by correspondence with Gordon Dutton's group in Glasgow and Simon Harding in Liverpool.

It is now obvious that the statistical modelling of my own data, and discoveries I made about historical comparisons of VEP and subjective Visual Acuity have guided the work of the ISCEV membership, putting the sacrifices of my early thirties into a sort of context.

Clinically, I have since worked in Urology and Dermatology in the UK NHS and have found broadening my perspective to be key to generating new ideas and solutions. As Gloria Gaynor said: " Why not try to see things from a different angle?" My contract with the University of Manchester allows me to read Documenta Ophthalmologica on occasion, and a favourite recent article was by Terracciano et al. entitled 'A novel system for measuring visual potentials evoked by passive head-mounted display stimulators'.

2002

Sharon Morong – Canada.

Dear Mrs Dodt,

I am so grateful to have been awarded the Eberhardt Dodt award during my Masters with Dr. Carol Westall. This award not only motivated and inspired me within my graduate career, but has been instrumental in my path to becoming a surgeon specializing in sleep medicine, where the principles of electrophysiology as it applies to sleep are so important. On a personal level, your generosity to help promote research, leadership and to help create a better world, has inspired me to create a scholarship in honour of my late father to help others the way that you have helped me.

For this I sincerely thank you.

2003

Julie Racine – Canada.

In 2003, in Nagoya, Japan, I had the privilege of receiving the prestigious Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award presented to a young scientist, for their scientific excellence. I was beyond honored and surprised, to say the least, to be presented with the Dodt award especially knowing how significant this award is. Receiving this award played a pivotal role in my career. It created a new world of possibilities. This led me to being recruited by the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio where I have been able to pursue my passion for visual electrophysiology. This amazing opportunity led to a vibrant career as a clinical visual electrophysiologist offering services in two facilities for people of all ages and as a researcher, advancing knowledge in the field of vision through pre-clinical and clinical work. Not only did this award open doors to new possibilities, it also gave me recognition with my peers in the field of visual electrophysiology. I am proud of being amongst one of the 25 recipients of the Dodt award and will be forever grateful for this amazing honor.

2004

Chi Luu – Singapore

I was honoured to be the recipient of the prestigious Eberhard Dodt Award in 2004 for my research into the effect of myopia on retinal function in adults and children. The Award not only recognised the significance of my work and improved my confidence as an early career researcher, but also provided me with an opportunity to visit other laboratories to expand my knowledge in the field of visual electrophysiology.

The experience from those visits has improved my clinical and research skills and broadened my research interests. Over the past 10 years, I have been using these skills to study the pathophysiology of age-related macular degeneration and develop safe and effective vision restoration strategies for inherited retinal degenerative conditions using stem cell, gene editing and bionic technologies.

2005

Ruth Hamilton – UK.

I won the Dodt Award in Glasgow, UK in 2005 at my second ISCEV Symposium. My talk, "The ERG in preterm infants", was a synopsis of my PhD, and the prize money enabled me to attend ISCEV in 2006, in Fontevraud, France. I began to establish the network of colleagues and friends who have been so valuable in improving the quality of my clinical practice as well as enabling multiple areas of research: over 70% of my publications are about visual electrophysiology or co-authored with ISCEV colleagues. I have the pleasure of being on the Dodt Award judging panel, previously as ISCEV Secretary-General and now as ISCEV President. The primary criterion for the Award is scientific excellence, but the judges also reward presentation quality. It is especially pleasurable to commend young scientists who communicate with clarity and enthusiasm. Professor Dodt was dedicated to stimulating international collaborations and translating research into clinical benefit. Thanks to the generosity and fundraising commitment of his widow, Frau Dodt, ISCEV's young scientists continue to benefit from the stimulus of collaborating with international peers. I am grateful, both personally and on behalf of the Society, for their work.

2006

Daniel Barthelemes – Switzerland.

I started my specialty training in ophthalmology in 2004, doing research in inherited retinal degeneration. One of my mentors, Professor Günter Niemeyer, most experienced in diagnosing diseases of the retina using electroretinography, provided me with a comprehensive introduction. Another mentor and close friend, Dr Johannes Fleischhauer, my direct supervisor then, encouraged me to do further research in this area and helped me to finish the research project I finally received the Eberhard Dodt award for.

An award at that early period of my professional career was an unexpected and great recognition of my work. This recognition strongly encouraged me to continue research and pursue my career in the area of retinal diseases.

Looking back now, the award had several effects that shaped my career. First, there was visibility of the research. The award helped to publicize to a wider audience the work we were doing and particularly the people involved. Our group, in particular me the awardee, became visible. This visibility and appreciation were certainly helpful in applications for grants and in discussing and planning new projects.

Second, an appreciation and recognition of young researchers is a very strong motivator to continue to do research, it is very rewarding and satisfying to receive recognition from others for the work one does. The Eberhard Dodt award strongly encouraged me to go further into the field of research in retinal disease, my current specialty, and helped to keep close ties to electrophysiology, electroretinography in particular. Until this day, I see patients with retinal degeneration, I look at ERGs every week of the year and discuss with my colleagues conditions our patients present with.

Of note, the first author of the final paper published in 2008 is Dominik Fischer – then a student at the University Hospital in Zurich, now a Professor in Oxford and Tübingen. We are still close friends.

To this day I am grateful to be an awardee of the Eberhard Dodt award. I am thankful for the opportunities it opened in establishing further research projects and allowing me to build my career. I would like to thank, as I did in 2006, my supervisors, mentors and friends who helped me to start the research I received the award for and who provided me with the necessary mindset that was key in taking next steps in my career. Now it is my turn to enable others to succeed.

2007

Maja Šuštar – Slovenia

I was a recipient of the Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award in Hyderabad, India, 2007. The memories of this event are still alive, even though they happened 15 years ago, when I was still a young researcher just entering the field of visual electrophysiology. This was my third visit to the ISCEV Annual Symposium, at which we were presenting a partial result from my doctoral dissertation. I wasn't expecting an award, and I remember finding it strange when some of the leading scientists asked me if I was going to attend a gala dinner.

When my name was announced as a recipient of this prestigious award, I suddenly started to cry out of happiness. This award gave me confirmation that my doctoral dissertation was developing in the right direction. It also gave me the confidence to continue my clinical and research work in this field and it actually guided the choice of my professional career. My sincere thanks to ISCEV and to Mrs. Dodt!

2008

Xunda Luo – USA

As winner of the 2008 Dodt Award, I am very grateful for the opportunity during the celebration of 25 years of the Award to express my deep appreciation on the many ways in which the award has contributed to my career.

I won the 2008 Dodt Award for my work on the retinal pathway origin of pattern electroretinogram (PERG), a retinal response to pattern visual stimuli. At that time I was a graduate student working in Dr. Laura Frishman's laboratory at University of Houston College of Optometry, Houston, Texas. Our group used intraocular injection of pharmaceutical agents, which could selectively block certain neuronal pathways in the eye, to study the contribution from these pathways to the PERG. The prize provided by the Dodt Award helped with the completion and publication of the study on Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science, which is one of the top ophthalmology journals by total citations and impact factor and the official journal of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), the largest and most respected eye and vision research organization in the world.

The generous support from the Dodt Award helped me not only with the publication of the study on PERG, but also with the earning of my Doctor of Philosophy degree in Physiological Optics/Vision Science and networking with researchers and clinicians around the world working in the field. These experiences prepared me well to pursue future career endeavors. After graduation I moved to University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania working as a Postdoctoral Researcher with Dr. Samuel Jacobson in the Center for Hereditary Retinal Degenerations continuing research on testing of retinal structures and functions. Over the years my focus gradually moved toward clinical work. Currently I serve as a Penn Medicine Clinician in the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

There is no doubt on the tremendous impact of the Dodt Award on my career path. I would like to give my deep appreciation and all my best wishes to Mrs Elke Dodt, the benefactor for this award, for her generosity and her vision to promote research in the field. I firmly believe that the Dodt Award will continue to inspire talented young scientists all around the world to produce more outstanding work of scientific excellence, the novelty, the potential value, and clinical usefulness in visual electrophysiology.

2009

Charlotte Reiff (née Poloschek) – Germany

I received the Dodt Award in 2009 at the 47th ISCEV symposium in Padua for my talk 'Give and take: the geneticist needs the electrophysiologist but we need the geneticist too'. As a young scientist (at that time 😊) it made me very happy that my work was appreciated by the "pros". The Dodt Award confirmed my conviction that molecular genetics belong to ophthalmology just as anything else in my profession as an ophthalmologist and supported my enthusiasm to continue my way. I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to Frau Elke Dodt. In my opinion, the Dodt award for young scientists will always boost productivity and thus improve the quality of research. In the long run, this enables a better treatment of our patients.

2010

George Kong – Australia

I am currently working as a Consultant Ophthalmologist in the Glaucoma Unit at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Melbourne Australia. In addition to performing clinical work in managing glaucoma patients, I also conduct research in areas of portable vision assessment technologies and electrophysiology assessment for glaucoma. I feel incredibly honoured to have been awarded the Dodt Award for the research I did during my PhD. The award fuel my continuing interest in identifying new methods of using electrophysiology to identify glaucoma treatment end-points. Further, I continue to be involved in teaching ophthalmology trainees in the use of electrophysiology in clinical practice.

2011

Ajoy Vincent – Canada

ISCEV has had a pivotal impact in shaping my professional career. It started with a travel grant to attend the meeting in 2006 at Fontevraud, France. As an Ophthalmology resident, that opportunity enabled me to meet with the pioneers in the field which in turn motivated me to continue to learn and grow in the field. I have presented at subsequent ISCEV meetings, and the Dodt award in 2011 was a truly defining moment in my training and academic growth. Apart from being my first international recognition, the Dodt award was a huge validation for me to believe that I can contribute significantly to the field. The Dodt award served as an independent validation for my growing expertise in electrophysiology which was well appreciated by my fellowship supervisors in Toronto. The Dodt Award served as a motivation for me to continue to work to decipher novel genotype-phenotype correlations in inherited retinal disorders using a wide range of electrophysiological techniques. This led to my academic position in Toronto, and I have been heading the electrophysiology unit since 2014. On a separate note, as a trainee, the honorarium from the Dodt award to buy a laptop was invaluable! I am sincerely grateful for having been selected for the Dodt Award in 2011 and feel that the Dodt awards immensely contribute to encouraging young scientists and clinicians from across the world.

2012

Kaoru Fujinami – Japan / UK

It is my great pleasure and honour to obtain this opportunity to celebrate 25 years of the Eberhardt Dot Award. I would like to appreciate the long-standing support by Mrs Elke Dodt, and also thank the committee for identifying the potential of young scientists.

The Dodt Award gives a to the early career of scientists. I am one of the clinicians whose academic careers has been influenced by the award. I started my scientific work in 2006 under Professor Yozo Miyake in Japan. Then, I moved to the Moorfields Eye Hospital/UCL in the UK to study clinical electrophysiology and genetics under Professor Graham Holder. I worked on the genotype-electrophysiological phenotype studies of inherited retinal diseases for my PhD study. Ten years ago, I felt to end my research carrier at the ISCEV 2012 when finishing my fellowship and then go back to being a pure clinician.

I, fortunately, won the Dodt Award in Valencia, Spain. I found that the combination of clinical electrophysiology and genetics, could attract both clinicians and scientists. I realized that selecting one field was impossible for me. At that moment, I decided to aim for the dual role of clinician-scientist. It has been a tough way to learn; however clinical experience informs the scientific overview, and academic experience makes clinical activity intriguing.

The genotype-phenotype studies have expanded over ten years, and the achievement with many brilliant colleagues gave me an opportunity to apply the gene augmentation therapy first in Asia. The exciting era of treating patients with intractable diseases has come. I am grateful for the Dodt Award, which encouraged me to select both ways of clinicians and scientists, which helps me in opening the door of treatment.

In 2020, I was elected as a member-at-large of the ISCEV board. I have been pleased to work with fantastic board members, including many Dodt awardees. I would like to continue sharing the interests among the ISCEV members and keep encouraging new clinician/scientist members to study the visual system.

This invaluable history of the Dodt Award develops not only young scientists but also clinical science. We, ISCEV members, have been honoured and pleased to walk with such a fantastic award. Again, I would like to show my deep appreciation to Mrs Elke Dodt and contributing members.

2013

Suna Jung – Canada

I received the Dodt Award at the 2013 ISCEV congress in Chongqing, China. As a second year Master's student presenting orally at an international conference for the first time, I was quite intimidated and nervous. Naturally, I was surprised when I won the award. It is still clear in my mind how happy and proud my supervisors, Drs. Lachapelle and Wintermark, and my whole lab colleagues were for me. The support I received from the ISCEV colleagues was also tremendous. On a personal level, the Dodt Award helped me gain confidence as a young scientist and build long lasting relationships within the ISCEV community. Professionally, the reception of the Dodt Award helped me secure other prestigious awards, such as the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. I successfully completed my PhD degree, studying the impact of birth asphyxia on the retinal structure and function in 2018. Following my PhD, I have obtained an MD degree and just started my residency training in Neurosurgery in 2022. I am truly grateful for the opportunities the Dodt Award opened up for me, and the motivation and inspiration it fostered in me to pursue a career that I am passionate about and that allows me to contribute to make a positive impact in my community.

2014

Mathieu Gauvin – Canada

Receiving the Dodt award at the 2014 ISCEV conference in Boston gave me the confidence and recognition that, as a young scientist, I needed to start my career. The prestigious Award helped me to find opportunities for my postdoctoral research and even helped me to secure corporate work opportunities.

I am now an affiliate professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at McGill University. I also head the R&D department of the largest Canadian medical corporation, conducting extensive research in over 40 private clinics. My current research focuses on medical data science, including data processing, machine learning, pattern recognition, scientific processes automation, and development of software and digital tools for surgical research. Statistical analysis of large and complex datasets is an essential tool for gathering clinical information that can improve patient treatments and derive forward-looking insights that help predict patient outcomes.

2015

Ana Fakin – Slovenia

I am grateful to have received the Dodt award which validated my efforts as a scientist and gave me confidence to continue with research. Since receiving the award, I have completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Moorfields Eye Hospital, where I had the opportunity to learn from Professors Graham E. Holder and Anthony G. Robson. In 2016, I began leading independent research at the Eye Hospital, UMC Ljubljana, where I collaborate with the electrophysiology laboratory led by Assist. Prof. Maja Šuštar. I see a great value in objective measurements of retinal function and continue using electrophysiology in genotype-phenotype studies. In fact, two of my PhD students are currently using electrophysiology as a part of their doctoral thesis, and one of them, Jana Sajovic, has been chosen to present her study on the use of ERG responses as biomarkers in Stargardt disease at ARVO 2022, which I am especially proud of.

I remember having a walk with Frau Elke Dodt on the sunny day after the ISCEV conference in Ljubljana and what still stands in my memory is her warmth and kindness. I am happy to have met her in person and am sure she had a great impact on young scientists.

2016

Jeremiah Lim – Australia

Dear Frau Dodt,

It has been nearly 8 years since I received the Eberhard Dodt award which was presented to me during the 54th ISCEV Symposium held in Singapore in 2016. To this day I recall the fond memories of that eventful moment and friendships that I formed in that meeting as well as my subsequent meeting in Seoul 2019.

Since receiving the Dodt award in 2016, I have submitted my thesis in 2017 and successfully obtained my Doctorate from the University of Melbourne in 2018. I am delighted to share that my Dodt award winning presentation on electrophysiological biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease was accepted for publication in *Frontiers of Neuroscience* (<https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2020.00862>). Fast forward to 2019, now a young postdoc and father of a 2-year-old, the generosity of Professor Dodt meant that I had financial support to attend a subsequent trip to ISCEV Seoul. There, I presented data around electrophysiological biomarkers for Parkinson's Disease, which was accepted for publication in *Scientific Reports* (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-11495-z>). The Eberhard Dodt award and the scientific legacy of Professor Dodt are well recognised internationally amongst visual electrophysiologists. The award continues to provide early career researchers an opportunity to be recognised for their work. Since receiving the award, I have been successful in receiving an early career grant as well as a prominent fellowship award in neuroscience.

Being a Dodt scholar has no doubt propelled my career in academia and gave me employment opportunities that I would not have had. Although I have since taken a step away from research to focus on teaching and clinical practice, I am forever grateful to the opportunities that the Dodt award has offered me. I hope that recipients of the Dodt award continue to inspire future generations of young electrophysiologists around the world.

2017

Lizhu Yang – Japan

Dear Mrs. Dodt,

My name is Lizhu Yang, I am from China and now working in Tokyo, Japan. As a junior investigator in the scientific field, each time I write my CV, the Dodt Award is my proudest achievement.

I started the study of visual electrophysiology and inherited eye disease from my master's course in 2013 in Beijing, supervised by Dr. Ruifang Sui, and continued my research at Dr. Kaoru Fujinami's lab in Tokyo Medical Center associated with Keio University School of Medicine from 2017 in Tokyo. The 55th ISCEV Symposium in Miami was the first ISCEV symposium I attended. As a first-year PhD student and non-native English speaker, I never thought I could win this award. So, when the result was announced, I was so thrilled and couldn't believe it.

With the encouragement of the Dodt Award, after that, I attended the ISCEV Symposium three more times. I have greatly enjoyed these meetings - the discussions and of course the ISCEV Olympics, but most importantly the chance to meet so many scientists who have personal integrity and enthusiasm for their research.

The Eberhard Dodt Memorial Award was a really great support to me, not only financially, but more importantly to my career. The more I learned, the more difficult I found the research, but when I remembered I was a recipient of the Dodt Award, I realised that my work was recognized by the top scientists in this field, I gained the confidence to continue.

Now, I have received my PhD and am currently working on a project to try to treat blindness caused by inherited retinal disease at Keio University School of Medicine.

Again, I am so honored to be one of the recipients of this award and appreciate so much the warm support from Mrs. Elke Dodt and ISCEV.

2018

Safal Khanal – New Zealand

It is with great honor that I write as a recipient of the 2018 Eberhard Dodt Award. At that time, I was studying retinal focus signalling mechanisms with Dr. John Phillips at the University of Auckland. In early 2016, discussions with Dr. Phillips had reinvigorated my interest and enthusiasm for using visual electrophysiology as a research tool to investigate neural responses of the human retina to optical and pharmacological manipulations of image focus. A couple of years later at the 56th ISCEV symposium in Reims, I was delighted to receive the Dodt Award in recognition of our work. This award inspired and supported me not only to continue my work in visual electrophysiology but also to explore further avenues to adapt knowledge gained in pursuit of my research goals. Today, visual electrophysiology remains an essential component of my research program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where I study pathophysiological mechanisms and treatments of childhood myopia – a rapidly growing ocular condition with a significant threat to public eye health. As a clinician-scientist, I draw a lot of inspiration from Professor Eberhard Dodt's life and work, and I hope my research program can make some meaningful contributions to advancing the field of visual electrophysiology.

2019

Oliver Marmoy – UK

The Dodt award was a highly significant achievement of my career and it was a great pleasure to have such an acknowledgement for the work I presented at ISCEV in Seoul, South Korea.

The award enabled me to go on to publish this work in the ISCEV journal, Documenta Ophthalmologica, alongside encouraging me to continue clinical practice and research into electrophysiological measurements in neuro-ophthalmology.

Thank you once again for the honour of receiving this award.

2020

Megan Margetts - UK

The 2020 virtual ISCEV conference was the second conference that I have ever attended. I was grateful to have the opportunity to meet inspirational researchers both at the beginning of their career and those who are already established. It was an honour to receive such a prestigious award so early in my medical career. Receiving the award gave me the confidence to believe that I was good enough to be able to pursue a career in research and this experience has encouraged me to continue to look at how I can continue to incorporate research into my future medical career.

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, it has been difficult to continue working on my research at Moorfields Eye Hospital over the last two years, but I have used the time to continue to pursue other research projects in Cambridge which have focused on reducing the impact of Covid on some of the most vulnerable populations in the local community. I hope that, over the coming years with laboratories returning to normal, I will be able to continue my research and I am excited for what the future will bring.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Dodt scholars who have provided photographs and personal recollections to allow this memoir of 25 years of the Dodt Award to be compiled.

Richard Smith FRCS FRCOph
ISCEV 2022 Symposium Coordinator
Liverpool, UK.