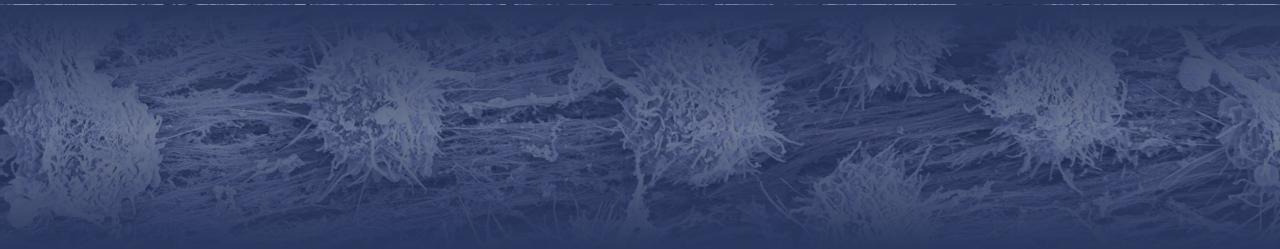




# Transferring Research Knowledge to Clinical Practice Challenges and Chances

Prof. Dr. med. habil. Katrin Engelmann, <u>Dr. Marcus Binner</u> May 21, 2019

Chemnitz Seminar "MEMS Technologies and Applications"

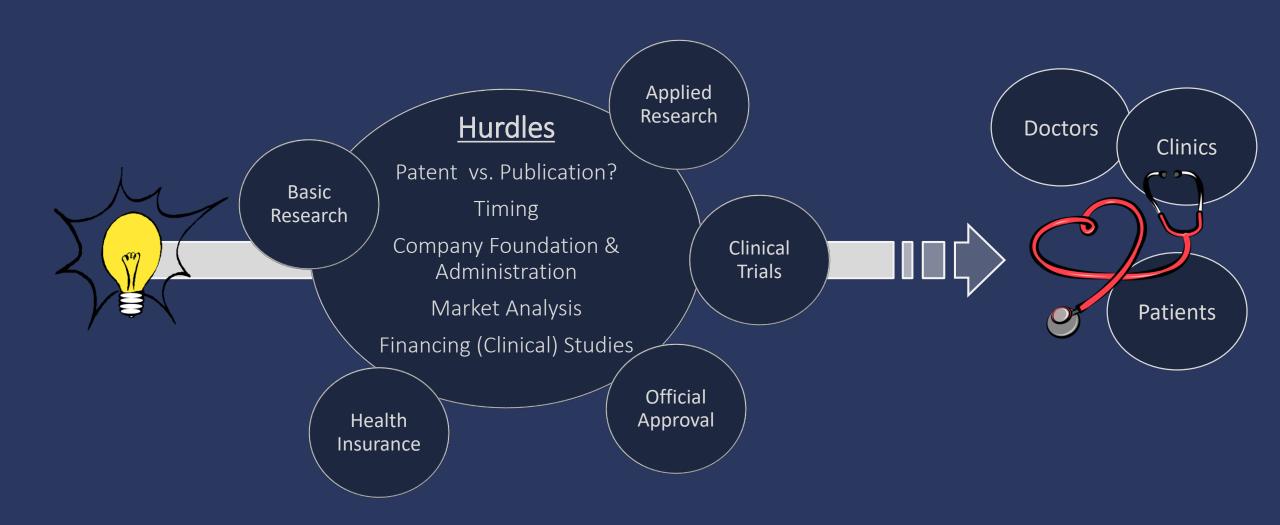




## Hurdles towards Clinical Translation



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## Example: AmnioClip-plus (AC+)



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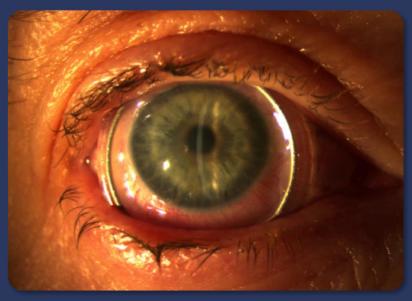
#### Project aim: suture-free amnion membrane transplantation



https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DT5IHCdU0AA9g i2.jpg



final assembly



application

Benefits: ambulant treatment, no operation, repeatable

Indication: corneal surface damage (scars, chemical burn, infectious keratitis...)

recently: dry eye - "Office Eye Syndrome" (GER: 12 Mio. patients)



#### Production Process AC+

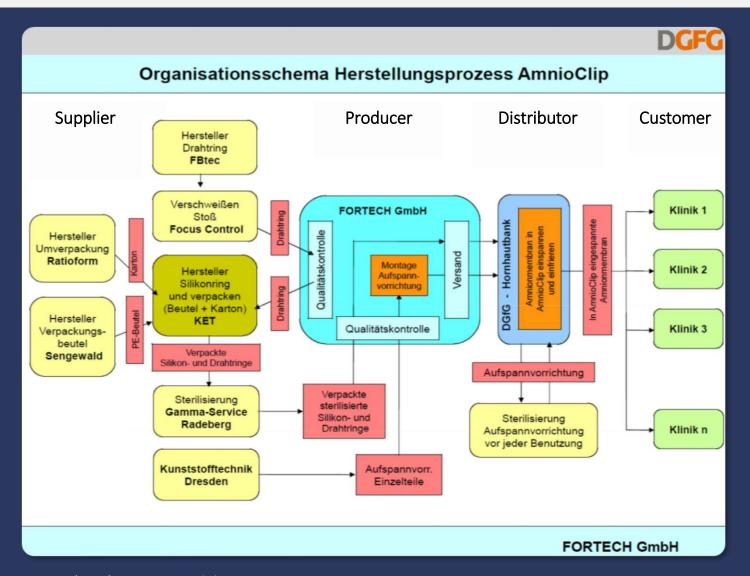


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#### "Bottlenecks"

Patents
Usage Studies (Research)
Consistent Quality Management
License by DGFG
Official Approval for German
Healthcare applications (PEI)

Time besides clinical routine





## Current Status AmnioClip-plus



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- Intense discussions with Paul-Ehrlich-Insitute
- Preliminary approval with restrictions: Effect of AM orientation should be studied in clinical surrounding (risk management for production)
- Klinikum Chemnitz: study completed (2017)
- Beneficial: in parallel AM approval for general wound healing applications
- DGFG for assembly and distribution
- Nowdays: Official approval for dry eye disease!
- DGFG is allowed to distribute the AC+ to German clinics



PEI.G.11968.01.1



## Timeline AmnioClip-plus



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#### A long pathway until medical approval...

2004 Idea & Research 2005-2015

Patent & company foundation, PEI

Competition
2012 US patent
"PROKERA®"

2016

PEI approval with restrictions
Clinical study Chemnitz

Competition
2017 US approval
"PROKERA®"

2017-2019
DGFG support
PEI approval

DGFG final processing, storage and documentation

Distribution to German clinics





## Example: TissueGUARD project



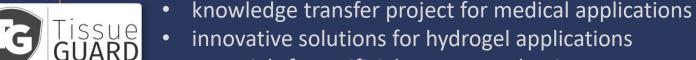
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## Leibniz-Institute of Polymer Research Dresden





- one of the largest polymer research facility in GER
- application oriented fundamental research
- synthesis, characterization, theory, processing & testing of novel materials
- 2017: 480 employees & > 950 publications per year

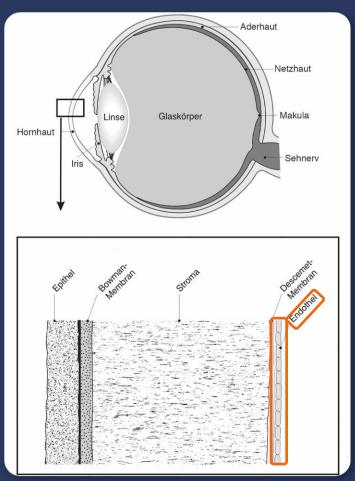


• materials for artificial cornea production, storage and transportation



# Anatomy of the Cornea





Anatomie und Funktion der Hornhaut 2008, Universitäts-Augenklinik Tübingen

The Cornea is the "Window of the Eye".

Corneal Curvature affects the Visual Acuity.

The Endothelium is responsible for the Visual Transparency.

While the Corneal Epithelium has regenerative potential,

The Endothelium is non-regenerative.



## Corneal Endothelial Damage & Cure



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Turbid Vision

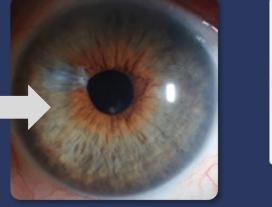
Damaged Endothelium



www.coavision.wordpress.com 2018



J. Am. Assoc. Pediatr. Ophthalmol. Strabismus. **2008**, *12*, 314–316.



DSEK

DMEK

Cornea after DSEK/DMEK
Ophthalmol. Zeitschrift der Dtsch. Ophthalmol.
Gesellschaft 2011, 108, 825–832.

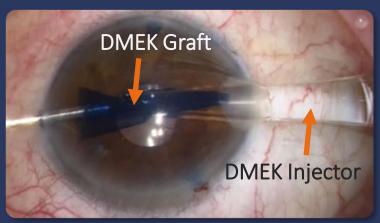
DMEK operation
Stripping
Loading
Injection



DGFG **2017** 



Miracles in Sight 2018



Augenklinik Saar – Sulzbach 2016



## The Obstacle



Today 12.7 Million people worldwide suffering from corneal blindness. Int. J. Ophthalmol. **2017**, *10*. 1154–1162. Only 1 out of 70 Patients receives a corneal transplant. Artificially produced tissues will cover the global demand. Future

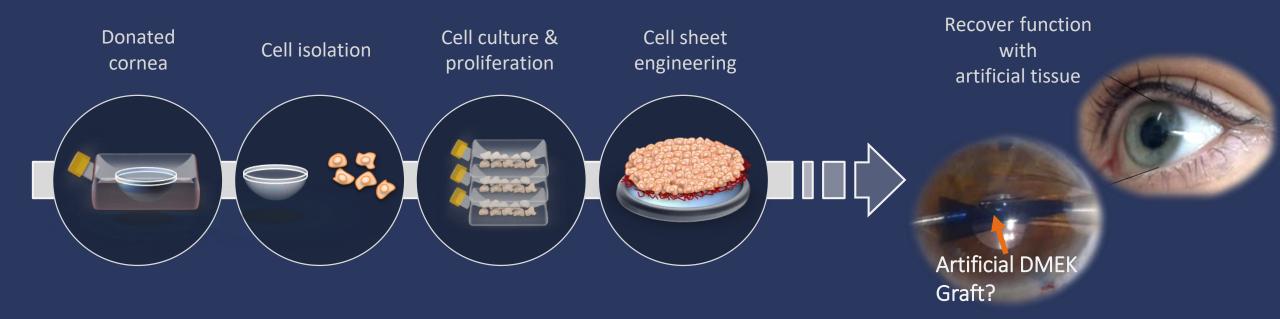


### The Solution



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#### Ex vivo tissue production



How to collect and transfer the engineered tissue?



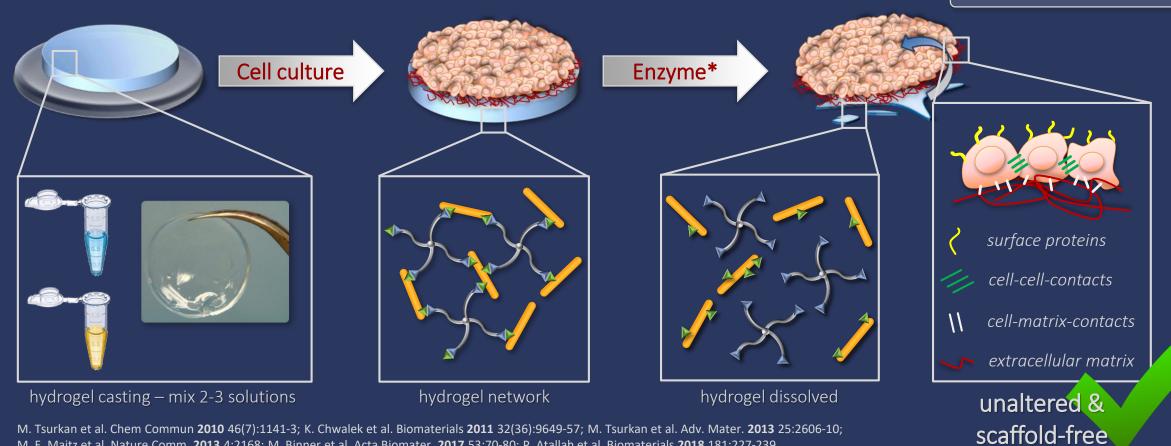
## The Principle



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#### Enzymatically cleavable hydrogels for tissue production

\*Possible enzymes, e.g.: Thrombin, FXa, Tobacco etch virus protease, Caspase-3, Enterokinase



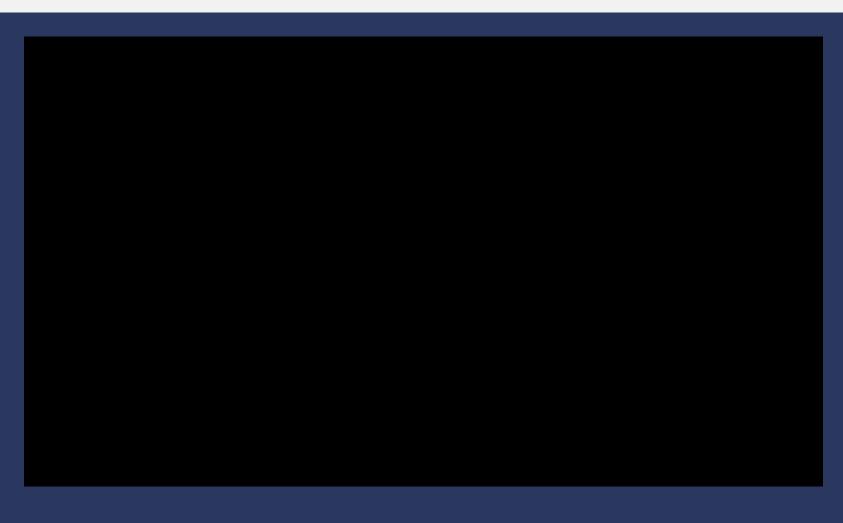
M. Tsurkan et al. Chem Commun 2010 46(7):1141-3; K. Chwalek et al. Biomaterials 2011 32(36):9649-57; M. Tsurkan et al. Adv. Mater. 2013 25:2606-10; M. F. Maitz et al. Nature Comm. 2013 4:2168; M. Binner et al. Acta Biomater. 2017 53:70-80; P. Atallah et al. Biomaterials 2018 181:227-239



#### Can it be translated to clinics?



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Prof. Dr. Alfonso L. Sabater Dr. Enrique Salero Angela Gomez



Elizabeth Fout-Caraza, MHSA William Brian Buras Sr., CEBT



## Next Steps & Challenges



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#### "Bottlenecks"

Patent transfer
Labspace
GMP production
Certification
Clinical Trials
Approval of new therapies





cell culture products



customized hydrogel precursors





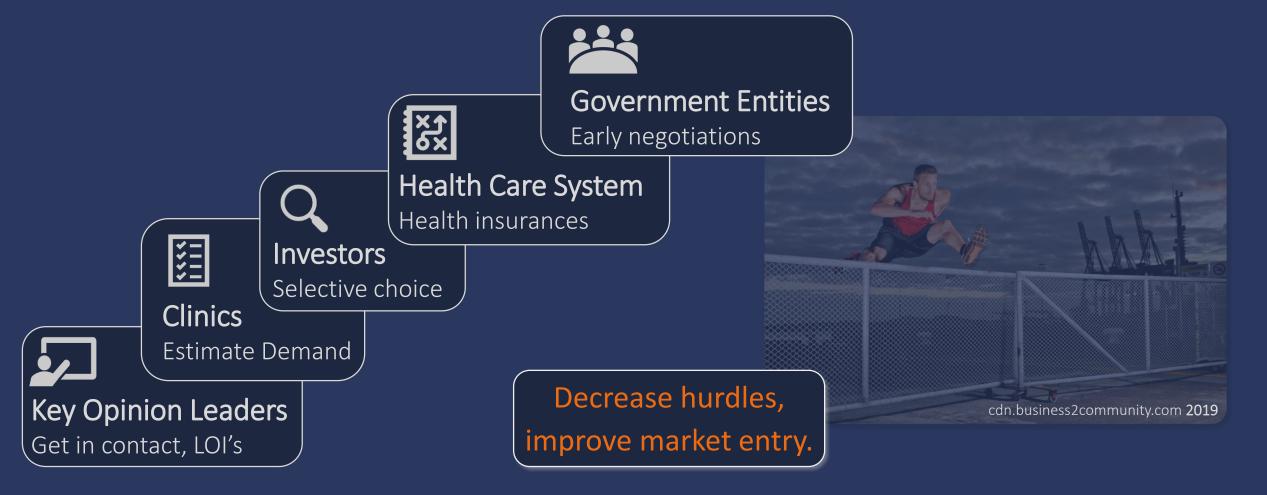
coinwire.com 2019



# "Klinisches Ökosystem"



Aim: Create methods/how-to's as template for bio-/medtech & pharma start-up's





# "Klinisches Ökosystem"



#### The clinical ecosystem program to conduct market entry process

#### Innovation Assistant

Communication with clinicians, searching for new projects

"Template" to guide from idea towards market entry

Manage contacts to KOL's, clinics, government entities, investors

#### **Use Cases**

Document and present examples of successful knowledge transfer projects

Valuable tool to arise interest, e.g. of investors

Direct feedback to Innovation Assistant

#### **Digital Clinic**

Develop new therapy algorithms with regards to government regulations

University degree program to implement "application-oriented thinking" to clinicians

Strengthen regional economy as innovation leader.





## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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Please scan QR code for my contact details.

The project TissueGUARD is part of the EXIST program and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the European Social Fund (ESF) as well as the Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research Dresden (IPF) Germany.













