

# About Us

The people behind ELZA



**ELZA**  
SWISS EYECARE AT ITS FINEST



## Welcome to ELZA

Swiss Medical Excellence.

It's why people travel from all over the world to Switzerland, and it's something that ELZA epitomises. Even for Switzerland, ELZA is no ordinary eye practice.

Many practices have the latest equipment. Some have experienced surgeons. Very few have active research and development groups with a global reputation.

ELZA has all three: equipment we helped develop, some of the world's most experienced surgeons, and a research team that has shaped – and continues to shape – how ophthalmology is practiced. In fact, ELZA epitomises the best medicine available today.

This combination equals the very best of Swiss Medical Excellence. You're in safe hands at ELZA. Trust us to deliver.

Yours sincerely,

Nikki Hafezi, MAS IP ETHZ  
Chief Executive Officer

Prof. Farhad Hafezi  
Chief Medical Officer

# Nikki Hafezi, MAS IP ETHZ

- Nikki Kristoffersen-Hafezi was born in the USA and studied English and Spanish literature at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. Ms Hafezi also holds a Master's degree in Intellectual Property from ETH Zurich (MAS IP ETHZ) and a CAS (Clinical Advanced Studies) in Biostatistics from the University of Bern.

## Focus

- Nikki Hafezi's activities include business development, strategic planning, intellectual property and patent consulting, and fundraising. In particular, she provides strategic management consulting in the medical field for academic institutions, companies and non-profit organisations in Europe and North America.



## Current positions

- Nikki Hafezi has been a partner at GroupAdvance Consulting GmbH in Zug and CEO of EMAGine AG in Zug since 2007.
- She is also the Managing Director of the National Eye Institute of Uzbekistan.

## The Power List

- In April 2015, readers of the international magazine *The Ophthalmologist* voted Ms Hafezi into the Top 40 under 40, a list of the most promising new personalities in global ophthalmology. In total, only 2 people from industry and only six women were included in that list, which emphasizes this exceptional achievement.

## Humanitäre Initiative

- In 2012, she founded the Light for Sight Foundation, which aims to detect and treat keratoconus in children and adolescents at an early stage.

## Languages

- Nikki Hafezi speaks English, German, and Spanish.



GroupAdvance Consulting



EMAGine AG



Light for Sight Foundation



## Prof. Dr. Dr. Farhad Hafezi

- Farhad Hafezi grew up in Fribourg in Üechtland and studied medicine in Fribourg and Bern.

### Focus

- Prof Hafezi's main clinical focus is on the cornea, especially keratoconus and the management of complications in refractive laser surgery.
- He played a key role in establishing cross-linking of the cornea in keratoconus (CXL) in ophthalmology.
- From 2010 to 2014, Hafezi was Clinic Director of the Geneva University Eye Hospital.
- Hafezi holds 4 professorships on 3 continents: he is Titular Professor at the University of Geneva, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the Roski Eye Institute of the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, Research Professor at New York University (NYU) and Visiting Professor at the University of Wenzhou (largest eye hospital in China).

### Publications

- Hafezi has published more than 260 scientific papers, and his work has been cited more than 14,000 times internationally by his peers.

### The Power List

- In 2014, his peers voted Prof Hafezi one of the 100 most influential personalities in ophthalmology internationally, as part of Power List published by *The Ophthalmologist*. In 2016, the Power List was published for a second time, and Hafezi's name was once again on it. Hafezi was voted onto the Power List for the third and fourth time in 2018, 2020 and 2023.

### International activities, awards

- Hafezi is co-editor of the *Journal of Refractive Surgery* and on the editorial board of eight other international journals.
- Prof Hafezi has received 40 national and international awards to date. These have been awarded for his clinical and research activity, as well as for his contributions to technology development in the form of innovation awards. Among the awards are the ARVO Foundation/Carl Camras Translational Research Award (USA), as well as the highest honours in the field of ophthalmology such as the AAO Achievement Award and the Casebeer Award from the International Society of Refractive Surgeons.

### Wikipedia Profile

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farhad\\_Hafezi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farhad_Hafezi)

### Languages

- Prof Hafezi speaks German, English, French, Polish, and Farsi.

# Prof. Dr. Kaweh Mansouri

- Kaweh Mansouri was born in Vienna and completed his medical studies at the universities of Vienna and Lausanne.

## Focus

- Glaucoma surgery and laser treatment of glaucoma.

## Clinical Activity

- Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).
- Clinical Adjunct Professor, University of Colorado, Denver, USA.
- Senior Consultant, Clinique de Montchoisi, Swiss Visio Network, Lausanne.



## Research activity

- To date, Prof. Mansouri has published 160 papers in scientific journals and is among the top 20 glaucoma researchers worldwide (Expertscape, Dec 2019).
- Prof. Mansouri is President of the Swiss Glaucoma Research Foundation and Associate Executive Vice President of the World Glaucoma Association.
- He sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Glaucoma and is a contributing editor to *International Glaucoma Review*.
- Prof Mansouri trains glaucoma fellows from all over the world.

## Awards

- In recent years, Prof Mansouri has thrice been a member of *The Ophthalmologist's* Power List, twice as a member of the Top 40 under 40, and in 2024 a member of the global top 100.
- In 2024, Prof Mansouri was also appointed Executive Vice President of the World Glaucoma Association.
- Prof Mansouri also received the Boberg-Ans Prize from the Danish Ophthalmological Society, the AAO Achievement Award and the AAO International Scholar Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He also gave the Alcon International Lecture at the AAO 2018.

## Languages

- Prof. Dr. Mansouri speaks German, English, French, Farsi, and Italian.



## Dr. Dr. Emilio Torres-Netto

- Dr. Dr. Emilio A. Torres-Netto is a corneal, cataract and refractive laser surgeon who has completed his training at several prestigious centers in the United States of America, Brazil, France and Switzerland.
- He is currently involved in the development of new and innovative therapeutic approaches for keratoconus, cross-linking and refractive surgery at the ELZA Institute and the University of Zurich.

### Clinical Activity

- His ophthalmology training was completed in 2013. The surgical subspecialties of cornea, cataract and refractive surgery were concluded in 2016, when he then proceeded to accomplish a refractive surgery observer fellowship at the Fondation Ophtalmologique Adolphe de Rothschild in Paris, France. Since 2016, he has been studying and working in Zurich, Switzerland, and in 2021 completed his doctorate in sciences, his PhD, entitled “Keratoconus, cross-linking and modulating factors of corneal biomechanics”.

### Research activity

- Dr. Dr. Torres-Netto has published 15 book chapters, 54 peer-reviewed journal publications and 45 publications in professional and media journals. He has also participated in several conference and television interviews, more than 230 national and international congresses, and has given over 250 presentations worldwide.
- Reviewer for several international, peer-reviewed journals. He is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Refractive Surgery Case Reports*, on the Editorial Board of *Oftalmologia em Foco* (Brazil), and *Optha* (Switzerland) and has been appointed an international member of the International Society of Refractive Surgery, which is part of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

### Awards

- Dr. Dr. Torres-Netto has received 16 prizes and awards from the largest ophthalmology societies. In 2018, he was unanimously selected as the first recipient of the International Council of Ophthalmology Award for his work in the field of corneal biomechanics, keratoconus, and cross-linking.
- In 2022, he was awarded the Jose Barraquer Medal by the BRASCRS (Brazilian Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery) in recognition of his contribution to the field of cornea and refractive surgery. In November 2023, Dr Torres-Netto received the Waring Memorial Award at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

### Languages

- Dr. Dr. Torres-Netto speaks German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

# Dr. Dr. Lamis Baydoun

- Lamis Baydoun was born and raised in Germany.

## Clinical Focus

- Cornea: al and surgical treatment of complex corneal diseases.
- Modern lamellar corneal transplantation techniques such as DMEK and Bowman Layer Transplantation
- Amniotic membrane transplantation and pterygium treatment
- Lens Surgery: Treatment of cataracts with implantation of specialty lenses.

## Clinical Education

- Specialized in ophthalmology and eye surgery at the University Hospitals of Zurich and Bonn, as well as hospitals in Dortmund and Mülheim/Ruhr.
- Sub-specialized in lamellar corneal transplants at NIIOS (Netherlands Institute for Innovative Ocular Surgery) in Rotterdam, where she worked as a corneal surgeon for over 6 years until 2018.
- Dr. Baydoun is internationally recognized for her expertise in DMEK and Bowman layer transplantation.



## Teaching activity

- At NIIOS, Dr. Baydoun was responsible for leading the education sector (NIIOS Academy). The courses offered by NIIOS Academy on the latest minimally invasive transplantation techniques have enabled many DMEK surgeons worldwide to adopt these surgical methods in recent years.

## Current Activities

- Research at NIIOS in Rotterdam and Senior Consultant at the University Eye Clinic Münster since 2016.

## Research activity

- Dr. Baydoun has published over 60 peer-reviewed scientific articles and regularly presents at international conferences.

## Languages

- Dr. Baydoun speaks fluent German, English, Dutch, and Arabic.



## Prof. Dr. Daniela Nosch

- Daniela Nosch was born in Lausanne, grew up in the USA and Germany, and has worked in the UK, Germany, and Switzerland.

### Education

- Prof. Nosch completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Optometry in the UK and later earned her PhD at Cardiff University, focusing on her scientific specialty.

### Clinical Focus

- Prof. Nosch specializes in fitting specialty contact lenses for unique corneal conditions such as keratoconus and post-corneal transplants. She is also interested in multifactorial approaches to alleviating dry eye and slowing myopia progression.

### Research Focus

- Her current research focuses on measuring the sensitivity of pain-sensitive corneal nerves, which play a crucial role in dry eye, keratoconus, corneal transplants, refractive surgery, peripheral neuropathy (e.g., diabetes), and contact lens wear.
- She is also involved in clinical studies to test and improve contact lenses, treatments for dry eye, and medical devices in optometry/ophthalmology.

### Teaching activity

- Prof. Nosch is a lecturer in clinical optometry and head of the education clinic at the Institute of Optometry, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland. She conducts workshops and lectures at optometric conferences.
- **Languages**
- Prof. Dr. Nosch speaks German, English, and French.



## Dr. Dr. Dion Paridaens

- Dion Paridaens was born in Holland and serves as the Clinical Director and Chief Physician at the Oogiekenhuis Rotterdam, the largest eye clinic in the Netherlands. He clinically leads the Oculoplastic and Orbital Departments at the University Eye Clinic Rotterdam.
- At ELZA, he acts as a consultant and has been operating regularly in Switzerland since 2002.

### Focus

- Plastic and Reconstructive Eyelid Surgery: Cosmetic procedures for droopy eyelids, bags under the eyes, ptosis, eyelid malpositions, and eyelid tumors.
- Lacrimal Surgery: Full spectrum of lacrimal system surgeries.
- Orbital Surgery: Treatments for thyroid eye disease and orbital tumors.

### Clinical Education

- Dr. Dr. Paridaens undertook his subspecialty clinical training in the Netherlands and Canada.

### Clinical activity

- Since 1996, Dr. Paridaens has led the Oculoplastic Department at the Rotterdam Eye Clinic.
- He established a fellowship program in eyelid and lacrimal surgery in 2001, training young physicians in this subspecialty.
- His clinical focus includes cosmetic and reconstructive eyelid surgery, lacrimal surgery, and orbital surgery.
- He co-founded the Thyroid Center Rotterdam and has been the President of the European Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (ESOPRS) since 2023.

### Research activity

- Dr. Paridaens completed his medical studies in the Netherlands and conducted his medical doctorate research on uveal melanoma at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London from 1990 to 1992.
- He has published over 170 peer-reviewed scientific articles in international journals.
- From 1999 to 2013, he was the editor of ORBIT (International Journal on Orbital Disorders, Oculoplastic and Lacrimal Surgery).

### Languages

- Dr. Paridaens speaks Dutch, German, English, and French.



## Dr. Dr. Andrea Oleňik Memmel

- Dr. Oleňik completed her medical education in Paraguay and Spain, particularly in Madrid and Barcelona, earning her doctorate *cum laude* from the Autonomous University of Madrid.

### Education

- PhD in Medicine and Surgery, Autonomous University of Madrid.
- Master in Retina and Vitreous, Institut für Augenmikrochirurgie (IMO), Autonomous University of Barcelona.
- MBA in Telemedicine and Clinical Management, CEU University.
- Observer, Charles Retina Institute, Memphis, USA.
- Best Graduate, National University of Itapúa, Paraguay (MD).

### Research and publications

- Long-term outcomes in primary rhegmatogenous retinal detachment.
- Diagnosis of ocular sarcoidosis.
- Early diagnosis of macular toxicity after hydroxychloroquine use.
- Study on the inverted flap technique for macular holes.
- Over 20 international publications.
- Editorial board member of 8 international ophthalmological journals.

### Languages

- Dr. Oleňik speaks German, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.



## Dr. M. Enes Aydemir

- Enes Aydemir was born in Turkey and completed his medical studies at the University of Zurich.

### Education

- Dr. Aydemir completed his clinical training in Switzerland at the ELZA Institute.

### Clinical Focus

- General ophthalmology.

### Research Focus

- In addition to his clinical duties, Dr. Aydemir conducts research on corneal biomechanics at ELZA and publishes his findings.

### Languages

- Dr. Aydemir speaks German, Turkish, and English.

## Dr. Carmen Rodriguez

- Carmen Rodriguez was born in Spain and completed her medical studies at the University of Cadiz.

### Education

- Dr. Rodriguez received her clinical training in Switzerland, including at the cantonal hospitals in Lugano and Aarau.

### Clinical Focus

- General ophthalmology.

### Research Focus

- In addition to her clinical duties, Dr. Rodriguez is an active member of the ELZA team's clinical research division.

### Languages

- Dr. Rodriguez speaks Spanish (mother tongue), German, Italian, and English.



## Léonard Kollros, M.Sc. EurOptom, FSLS

- Léonard Kollros was born in Biel and is a native French speaker.

### Education

- He earned his Bachelor's degree in Optometry from the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz in Olten in 2017. He then completed his Master's degree in Clinical Optometry at Ulster University in Northern Ireland in 2021.
- Since 2020, Léonard Kollros has been a board member of the Swiss Association of Opticians and Optometrists.

### Clinical Focus

- Specializes in contact lens fitting for irregular corneas and advanced keratoconus, myopia control in children, and dry eye treatment. He has extensive experience in cross-linking and refractive surgery.

### Teaching activity

- Since 2022, he has been a lecturer in clinical optometry at the Institute of Optometry, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland. He regularly lectures on contact lens fitting for irregular corneas, keratoconus, and dry eye treatment at conferences and workshops.

### Languages

- Léonard Kollros speaks French, German, and English.



## Fabienne Scheidegger-Meier

- Fabienne Scheidegger-Meier was born and raised in Switzerland.

### Education

- She completed her training as a Medical Practice Assistant EFZ at the Berufsschule Aarau. She obtained her Higher Business Diploma (HWD) from the Association of Swiss Management Schools and became a certified business specialist. In April 2023, she finished her further training in Human Resources at AKAD, Zurich.

### Professional Focus

- Fabienne started her career at the ELZA Institute over six years ago. She works as both the Administrative Clinic Manager and in Human Resources. She also leads the team, leveraging her extensive knowledge.

### Languages

- Fabienne Scheidegger-Meier speaks German (native) and English.



Sabrina Bouras



Katica Eric



Luana Fernandes



Api Thasan



Andjela Nikolic



Claudia Appolloni



Manuela Morganello



Silvia Ladner