

The Luxembourg Fuerschungsklinik – towards the future of clinical research in Luxembourg

Christof von Kalle

Luxembourg Research Clinic

The Luxembourg Research Clinic (Fuerschungsklinik Lëtzebuerg) is a national collaborative initiative uniting Luxembourg's four general hospitals: CHL, Chem, CHdN and HRS, the University of Luxembourg (UNILU), and the Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH). Its mission is to integrate clinical research, training, therapy, and prevention to improve patient outcomes and foster medical innovation.

The clinic responds to Luxembourg's growing need for a structured clinical research infrastructure embedded directly within real-world healthcare settings. It aims to provide access to innovative treatments and strengthen the country's position in personalized medicine. Key focus areas include oncology, neurological and neurodegenerative diseases, immunity and infection, paediatrics and rare diseases, primary care and prevention, and mental health.

Core elements of the Clinic include a secure clinical data workflow linking hospital data systems to research platforms, a federated research infrastructure across all hospitals, and a competitive support system for investigator-led clinical studies. These structures will enable Luxembourgish patients to access cutting-edge diagnostics and therapies while also contributing to international research efforts.

The Clinic promotes patient-centric research and fosters public involvement, aligning research activities with real-world healthcare needs. It also serves as a training hub for the next generation of clinical professionals, ensuring close collaboration between hospitals, researchers, and academic institutions.

Through this integrated and collaborative approach, the Luxembourg Research Clinic aims to elevate national standards in healthcare, research, and education, establishing Luxembourg as a recognized leader in clinical and translational research.

Biosketch

Christof VON KALLE, Prof, MD, PhD

Chair for Clinical Translational Sciences, Berlin Institute of Health (BIH); Director, Luxembourg Research Clinic (LRC) – Fuerschungsklinik Lëtzebuerg

ORCID ID: [0000-0001-9221-3297](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9221-3297)

CURRENT POSITIONS

Since December 2024: Director, Luxembourg Research Clinic (LRC), Luxembourg Institute of Health.

Since Jan 2024: Expert Member, Supervisory Board, University Medical Centre Freiburg.

Since Jun 2019: Chair, Clinical Translational Sciences, BIH & Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

SELECTED PAST POSITIONS

2019–2023: Member, Advisory Council on Healthcare, German Federal Ministry of Health.

2005–2019: Head, Translational Oncology, DKFZ; Director, National Center for Tumor Diseases, Heidelberg.

2002–2005: Professor of Pediatrics & Program Leader, Gene and Molecular Therapy, Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

1992–1994: Clinical Research Associate, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle.

EDUCATION

1991: Dr. med., University of Cologne.

Medical training and doctoral research at the University of Cologne.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022: Outstanding Achievement Award, ESGCT.

2014: Pioneer Series Award, Human Gene Therapy.

2011: Eva Luise Köhler Award for Rare Diseases.

2005: Langen Research Award, Paul Ehrlich Institute.

Elected Member, ASCI; various early-career awards in gene therapy and oncology.

SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fields: Hematology, oncology, gene & molecular therapy, cancer stem cells, digital medicine.

Cofounder: Vision Zero in Oncology; Life Codex; GeneWerk.

Leadership: Principal Investigator, DataBox; Co-coordinator, German Cancer Aid's nNGM network.

Advisor: EMEA, NIH, DFG, BMBF.

Reviewer: Nature, Science, Blood, JCI, Nature Medicine, among others.