

Curriculum vitae

Prof. Dr. Volker Dietz completed medical training and specialisation in neurology and neurophysiology at the University of Freiburg, Germany. His research was devoted to human motor control and movement disorders. Using the technique of neurophysiological recordings during movements he established a novel pathophysiological basis of, for example, spastic movement disorder. The discrepancy between the clinical condition of spasticity and the movement disorder had profound therapeutical consequences. In 1992 Prof. Dietz became director of the Spinal Injury Center and chairman of Paraplegiology at the University of Zurich, i.e. the first chair in Paraplegiology in Europe. With the cooperation with Martin Schwab from the Brain Research Institute together with the Novartis company he translated basic research of the effect of Nogo A antibodies on spinal tract regeneration in SCI animals to the human setting. For the clinical application of regeneration inducing therapies and the establishment of standardized assessments Dietz founded (together with Armin Curt and Martin Schwab) the European network of paraplegic centers (EMSCI network). Another focus of research (together with the Engineer Gery Colombo) was the development of robotic devices for neurorehabilitation, such as the 'Lokomat'. He edited the Handbook on "Neurorehabilitation Technology" (third edition together with David Reinkensmeyer and Laura Marchal-Crespo 2022) and the 'Oxford Textbook of Neurorehabilitation' ((together with Nick Ward, 2nd edition 2020).. Another focus of research during last years was the course of neuronal function after deprivation of supraspinal input as a basis for a successful regeneration inducing therapy). In 2002/2003 he was guest-professor in the Miami Center to Cure Paralysis in Miami. Dietz has published more than 300 peer reviewed original papers (H-index 115) and received several awards for his research on spinal cord injury (e.g. 'Heiner Sell lecture' awarded by the ASIA; Sobek and Hans Berger awards).