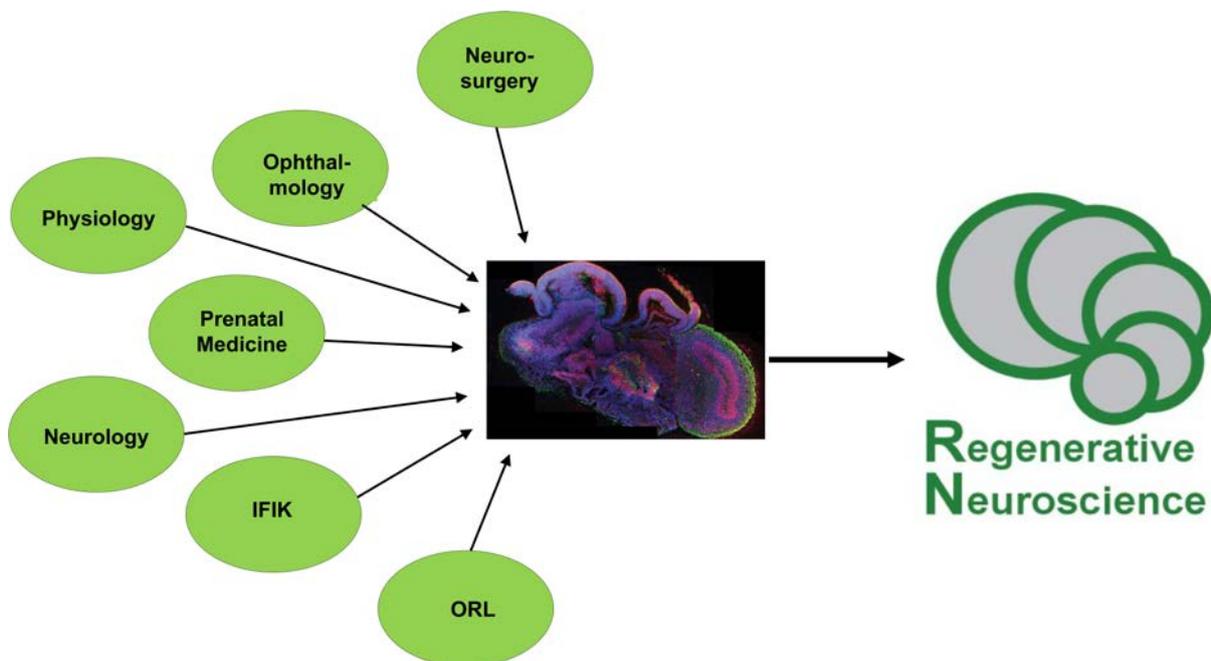


Cluster for Regenerative Neuroscience

The initiation of the interdisciplinary collaboration between different research groups of the University of Bern involved in neurosciences, which finally led to the *Cluster for Regenerative Neuroscience*, was inspired by the emerging field of stem cell research. It offers interesting new therapeutic options for a variety of disorders of the brain and sensory organs. These approaches include delivery of stem cell-derived progenitors, differentiated neuronal or sensory cells to the damaged site, cell-free approaches as well as the modulation of local cellular repair using endogenous mechanisms. Hence, our research efforts aim to promote stem cell-related projects giving emphasis to multidisciplinary approaches focused on injury and regeneration of the central nervous and sensory-neural systems. An important aspect of this platform involves ample opportunities to teach and continuous education to young researchers.



In the course of already existing scientific interactions, the *Cluster of Regenerative Neuroscience* was established by the research groups from the Institute for infectious diseases (IFIK; Group Leib/Grandgirad), the Departments of Neurosurgery (Group Widmer/DiSanto), Obstetrics and Prenatal Medicine (Group Surbek/Schöberlein), Ophthalmology (Group Enzmann) and Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery (Group Senn/Roccio) in 2009. We soon realized that our research projects would substantially benefit by sharing a common lab space. After a period in the new research building at Murtenstrasse 50 from 2011 to 2016 the common stem cell research laboratory is now

located at the Murtenstrasse 40. After some eight successful years, we have recently increased our cluster by two research groups from the Department of Neurology (Group Saxena) at Inselspital and the Institute of Physiology (Group Kleinlogel) from the University of Bern.

Since the beginning, regular meetings where scientific and administrative issues are shared and discussed have been a central part of our cluster activities. Young researchers have thereby the possibility to present their data in a non-competing atmosphere. Furthermore, social interactions between the lab members have been flourishing during regular “happy hours”.