

Media release

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Top Award for Dr. med. Kathleen Seidel

Dr. med. Kathleen Seidel has been awarded the prestigious Theodor Kocher Prize on the occasion of this year's Dies Academicus. The University of Bern is honoring her for approximately ten years of outstanding research in the field of intraoperative neurophysiology, which has contributed significantly to the improvement of tumor surgery.

As a first step, Dr. med. Kathleen Seidel developed a method that enables neurosurgeons to estimate the distance to important nerve centers and pathways while performing tumor operations on the brain and spinal cord. In the second step, together with Physician-in-Chief Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Raabe, she developed the so-called dynamic suction probe. This is the surgical instrument used by a neurosurgeon to remove the tumor during tumor surgery. This suction device continuously emits an audible signal when it comes dangerously close to the important centers in the brain or spinal cord. The dynamic suction device has been on the market since 2015 and is now used in 37 countries.

At the Inselspital, Bern University Hospital the senior physician has set up a research group for intraoperative neurophysiology and navigated transcranial magnetic stimulation, the results of which are recognized beyond national borders.

Kathleen Seidel is also actively involved in projects for the development of neuromonitoring techniques in India and South Africa, as well as in other countries.

Reward for unquenchable research drive

With the CHF 50,000 prize money awarded to the winner of the Theodor Kocher Prize, the University of Bern honors its best young academics across its faculties for their exceptional and promising scientific achievements. The award was endowed by the internationally renowned Bernese surgeon, Theodor Kocher, who received the Nobel Prize in 1909.

More about [Dr. med. Kathleen Seidel](#)

More about [intraoperative neurophysiology](#)

Caption: This year's winner of the Theodor Kocher Prize: Dr. med. Kathleen Seidel, Senior Physician at the Department of Neurosurgery at Inselspital, Bern University Hospital.

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