

Prof. Katja Kobow

Dr. Kobow is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Neuropathology at the Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-University (FAU) Erlangen, in Germany, and heads the molecular neuropathology unit. She studied biochemistry at the University of Leipzig. She received her PhD in neuroscience and genetics in 2009 under the supervision of Prof. Ingmar Blümcke and has since built her own research group, studying the molecular pathomechanisms underlying experimental and human focal epilepsies. The focus in recent years has been on epigenomic changes in epileptic brain tissue as well as the identification of molecular diagnostic biomarkers for epilepsy and associated pathologies, both in the brain and peripheral tissues. Ongoing mechanistic studies investigate the translation of hypersynchronous neuronal activity (i.e., seizures) into aberrant epigenetic signatures, as well as the potential to target these mechanisms. Additionally, they examine the contribution of epigenetics to phenotypic variability in epilepsy and its role in transgenerational inheritance. Dr. Kobow actively participates in several ILAE (International League Against Epilepsy) commissions and task forces, chairs the ILAE Mentoring program, and is one of the founders and a former board member of the ILAE's Young Epilepsy Section (YES). In 2021, she was awarded the prestigious Michael Prize for her pioneering work in epigenetics related to epilepsy.