



August 22-27, 2027 | ICC JEJU, Jeju Island, Korea

Prof. Dr. Joachim Heberle

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Joachim Heberle is an experimental biophysicist whose research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of biological energy conversion, particularly membrane proteins, proton transfer, and light-driven processes. He studied chemistry at the Universities of Stuttgart and Würzburg and received a doctor title in Biophysics from the Freie Universität Berlin in 1991. Following a postdoctoral period at the Hahn-Meitner-Institut Berlin, he established a research group at the Research Center Jülich, and completed his Habilitation in Biophysical Chemistry at HHU Düsseldorf. He was appointed Professor of Biophysical Chemistry at Bielefeld University in 2005 and Professor of Experimental Molecular Biophysics at the Freie Universität Berlin in 2009.

Heberle is recognized for developing and applying time-resolved, surface-enhanced and near-field infrared spectroscopy, to investigate the relationship between protein structure, dynamics and function. His research has contributed to the mechanistic understanding of microbial rhodopsins, proton transport, bioelectrochemistry, respiration, and photosensory proteins.

Joachim Heberle gave the Lars Ernster Lecture at Stockholm University in 2023 and was awarded the Peter Mitchell Medal in 2026 for his contributions to the molecular understanding of bioenergetics.