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Nikos Bechrakis is Professor of Ophthalmology and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Essen - Germany since 2018. From 2008 until 2017 he was Professor of Ophthalmology and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Innsbruck - Austria. He serves as Director of the Leadership Development Program of the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE), a post that he holds from 2007, after having graduated from this program in the same year.

Dr. Bechrakis received board certification in ophthalmology in 1996 after residency training at the Department of Ophthalmology at the Charité - Free University of Berlin and has completed fellowships in ophthalmic pathology with W.R. Green in Baltimore (Johns Hopkins University) and with W.R. Lee in Glasgow (Western Infirmary-University of Glasgow). He is a Fellow of the European Board of Ophthalmology (FEBO) and is specialized in cataract, glaucoma,

corneal and vitreoretinal surgery, as well as in ophthalmic oncology and pathology.

Dr. Bechrakis serves in the Editorial board of four ophthalmology journals, has published more than 140 articles and contributed in 19 ophthalmology textbooks. Among others he has received the Leonhard-Klein Prize in 2003 of the German Science Foundation and the German Ophthalmological Society and was chosen repeatedly "Prof of the 8th term" by the students of the Medical University in Innsbruck. In 2014 he received an honorary doctorate by the University of Athens, Greece.

Nikos Bechrakis was born in Switzerland in 1964, and holds the Greek and German citizenship. He lives in Innsbruck/Austria with his wife Maria, who is a physicist, musical conductor and Artistic Director of the Camerata Europaea. They have two sons, Emmanouel and Michael.