I’m a consultant surgeon and research group leader (microenvironment of pancreatic cancer) working at Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany. I studied medicine and did my surgical training at the University of Istanbul. I qualified as a general surgeon in 2001 and worked as a consultant surgeon at the Hepato-Pancrearto-Biliary Surgery Unit, Department of general surgery of the University of Istanbul. Between 2003 and 2007 I commenced a post-doctoral fellowship at the department of surgery at the University of Heidelberg (Chairman: Prof. Markus W. Büchler) and got my second doctoral degree (The influence of tumor modulated microenvironment on pancreatic cancer behavior, summa cum laude). Since 2007, I have been working at the Department of Surgery, Technische Universität München (Chairman: Prof. Helmut Friess). I’m focusing on translational research on pancreatic cancer microenvironment, especially on pancreatic stellate cells and tumor stoma. In 2011, with other opinion leaders of the field, I initiated the “Pancreatic Star Alliance” and organized the first consensus meeting on pancreatic stellate cells (StellaTUM).