

Torsten Doenst is Professor of Cardiac Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Jena, Jena, Germany. He is an established expert in minimally-invasive cardiac surgery and complex valve surgery. He received extensive training in the surgical and the basic science field at the University of Texas in Houston, USA, the University of Freiburg and the Heart Center Leipzig in Germany and the Toronto General Hospital in Toronto, Canada. He was the first cardiac surgeon elected into the most prestigious individual funding programs of the German Research Foundation (DFG, Emmy-Noether program in Freiburg and Heisenberg-Professor of cardiac surgery at the University of Leipzig). In 2010, he took the chair in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Jena, Germany. He advances the field through the development of new surgical techniques in mitral and tricuspid valve surgery, by providing yearly literature reviews on cardiac surgery and by promoting scientific qualification of the young. Most recently, he established a DFG-supported network for research and clinical trials in Germany (GermaN HearTS). His thinking is mechanism-oriented. He recently proposed the concept of surgical collateralization as the responsible part of coronary bypass surgery (CABG) explaining CABG-associated survival advantages and being the decisive distinction to percutaneous coronary intervention in chronic coronary syndromes.