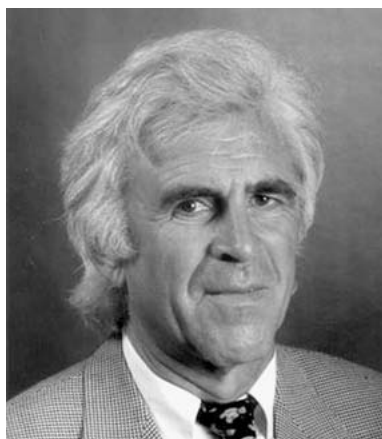


## Obituary to Prof. Dr. med. Manfred Ackenheil (1939–2006)



We regret that we have to inform you that Manfred Ackenheil passed away on August 1st. His sudden passing was a great shock to his many friends and colleagues throughout the world.

Manfred Ackenheil was born on March 14, 1939 in Frankfurt, Germany. He first studied pharmacy in Freiburg, where he had his first pharmaceutical examination in 1961, and then went on to study medicine at the Universities of Saarbrücken, Heidelberg, Berlin, and Munich. From 1964 to 1967, he was research fellow at the Max-Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich, where he worked on biochemical and pharmaceutical experimental investigations in animals. In 1967, he received his medical state examination and his doctorate in Medicine with a thesis on norepinephrine and serotonin metabolism in the central nervous system under different physiological and pharmacological conditions. After working as a medical assistant at the Department of Internal Medicine at Munich University, where

he performed clinical research on hypertension, he became head of the Department of Neurochemistry and Laboratory Medicine at the Psychiatric Hospital of the University of Erlangen in 1969. Three years later, he entered the Department of Neurochemistry at the Psychiatric Hospital of the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich. Together with Hanns Hippus and Norbert Matussek, he investigated and promoted various newly discovered psychopharmacological drugs, including clozapine. He received his postdoctoral lecture qualification in 1980 with a thesis on clinical and experimental-biochemical effects of clozapine and he was appointed professor for experimental psychiatry in 1982. In 1990, he was appointed head of the Department of Neurochemistry at the Psychiatric Hospital of Munich University.

He was always open for and interested in so many different subjects and was full of ideas and perspectives for future research. Accordingly, his research activities were not only focused on psychopharmacology. Together with Hanns Hippus, he was one of the first in Germany to re-introduce genetic research in Psychiatry, a field that had been interrupted after 1945. From the beginning of the 1990s onwards he participated in a huge number of publications on genetics in psychiatric disorders. Starting from his biochemical and genetic interests, the focus of his work broadened to the immunological mechanisms in schizophrenia and other psychiatric conditions. Although psychoses were his main interest, he was also involved in biochemical and genetic research of somatoform disorders, ADHD, and alcoholism. Altogether he published more than 220 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Manfred Ackenheil's unassuming personality, his integrity, his wide range of expertise and his friendly and helpful manner endeared him to all of his colleagues and his many friends. His most prominent trait, however, was his unconditioned helpfulness in promoting young scientists all over the world.

From 1987 on he was serving on several committees of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) and he was a most successful president of the ECNP from 1995 to 1998. Additionally he was a board member of the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) and chaired the section on psychopharmacology of the AEP. Both the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Federation of European Neuroscience Associations (FENS) appointed him as a council member. Besides his European commitments, he was also councillor of the Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum (CINP) from 2002 to 2004. As chair of the scientific section on Immunology and Psychiatry of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), he promoted this upcoming field of research. Moreover, he was member of the advisory boards of several international neuropsychiatric journals.

Beside his international activities, he acted as treasurer of our society, the 'Deutsche Gesellschaft für Biologische Psychiatrie' (DGBP) from 1987 to 1990.

He will be sadly missed as an internationally leading expert in the field of biological psychiatry and psychopharmacology, and as a close and much valued friend to all of us.

Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller

President of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Biologische Psychiatrie