

Editorial



Professor Peter Schreier on his 65th Birthday

Peter Schreier, the Editor-in-Chief of Molecular Nutrition & Food Research, is celebrating his 65th birthday this year. Born on July, 18, 1942 in Bromberg (formerly Westpreussen) he grew up in the Saarland. After his high school diploma he studied pharmacy and food chemistry. His academic education took him to Freiburg, Saarbrücken, Karlsruhe, Guelph (Canada), and subsequently Munich, where he became an Assistant Professor at the Technical University of Munich in the group of Professor Friedrich Drawert. Finally in 1980 he was appointed a full professor to the newly established Chair of Food Chemistry at the University of Würzburg, the 25th anniversary of which was celebrated with an International Symposium in 2005 (see Special Issue "Food Chemistry – Link to Biology and Medicine", *Mol. Nutr. Food Res.* 2006, 50(4–5)).

The scientific development of the Chair of Food Chemistry at the University of Würzburg has been shaped and characterized by Peter Schreier and reflects the situation of food chemistry worldwide. Inspired by Friedrich Drawert, his initial research activities were exclusively devoted to flavour chemistry including analysis, biogenesis and biotechnology. Over the years the research activities in the group of Peter Schreier have shifted more and more towards studies of food-relevant enzymes and the production of chemicals by enzymatic or microbiological biocatalysis. In parallel broad knowledge and experience in chiral analysis has been gained in Peter Schreier's group. Based on these years of experience in the field of enzymes as well as chiral analysis, biocatalytical research was performed in close cooperation with the Department of Organic Chemistry resulting in several successful applications. Another milestone in the scientific career of Peter Schreier was the introduction of LC-MS/MS analysis in 1994. This directed the research interests even more towards a molecular level, focusing on problems of the physiological function of food constituents arising from plant secondary metabolism, from fungi or

thermally treated food samples as well as from food contaminants. For these research activities a strong connection and very successful collaboration with the Würzburg Medical Hospital as well as with other medically oriented research groups has been initiated and established by Peter Schreier over the years. The results of his impressive research activities have been documented in more than 450 publications receiving extraordinarily high resonance in the scientific community. Since 2003, Peter Schreier has been ranked as a highly cited researcher by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI).

Early on in his scientific career Peter Schreier recognized that food chemistry represents an interdisciplinary link between many sciences, mainly chemistry, biology and medicine/nutrition. This reflects the national and international situation as food chemistry has changed from a special discipline of chemistry or pharmacy to an integrated part of the Life Sciences. The future of food chemistry will belong to those research groups that direct their research activities towards this development.

The interdisciplinary character of food chemistry and the need for research activities on a molecular level to elucidate the chemical structures responsible for any activities also provides the basis for Molecular Nutrition & Food Research

which was established in 2004 with Peter Schreier as the Editor-in-Chief. The success of this concept, initiated by Peter Schreier, can be seen from the journal's new impact factor of 2.687.

This significant increase compared to the impact of last year (2.071) has now moved the journal into position 3 in its category.

If Peter Schreier was asked about a laudation on the occasion of his 65th birthday, he would answer that it should be devoted to the emerging field of molecular food chemistry, and not to him. In this spirit, I have focused more his scientific achievements.

This 65th birthday provides us with the opportunity to express our gratitude and admiration, and it is also an occasion to look back at the personal success and merits of Peter Schreier. However, a birthday is also a possibility to look ahead. I would like to wish you even more productive and successful years for the future.

Happy Birthday Peter Schreier!



Professor Hans-Ulrich Humpf
University of Münster