

In memoriam

Prof. Bernd R. Binder

Professor Bernd Binder, a highly recognized member of the Medical University of Vienna (MUW) and the Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (GTH), died on August 28th 2010, after a long illness at the age of 65.

Professor Binder graduated at the University of Vienna in 1969. After graduation he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Physiology of the University. From the beginning he was highly interested in vascular biology, in particular in endothelial cell function and fibrinolysis. As a young scientist, during his postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard (1977–1978), he published a seminal paper on purification and characterisation of tissue plasminogen activator (1). Based on his data a highly effective treatment for acute myocardial infarction was later developed. Other important papers were on the secretion of endothelin 1 by endothelial cells (2), the role of urokinase receptor in cancer growth and angiogenesis (3), the inhibition of apoptosis of endothelial cell by NF kappa B related genes (4) and tissue factor expression induced by vascular endothelial cell growth factor (5). Moreover, he and his coworkers published a large number of other articles, many in highly ranked journals (6–8).

At the Medical University of Vienna Prof. Binder was appointed as head of the Division of Clinical-Experimental Physiology in 1978. In 1996 he became founding director of the Department of Vascular Biology and Thrombosis Research. He was a distinguished member of many international medical societies, among others board member of the International Committee on Fibrinolysis (1986–1992), president of the 8th Congress of Fibrinolysis (1986), member of the scientific and standardisation committee of the ISHT; congress president of the GTH (1993) and president of the International Society for Fibrinolysis and Proteolysis (2006). At his work at the MUW he was convinced of the

need of the interaction and cooperation between basic and clinical science and thus had a close and fruitful cooperation with clinical departments.

When the medical universities in Austria became independent in 2004 he became member of the senate of the MUW and played an important role in the development of the department structures in basic science.

When he became ill, we were all impressed how he managed to continue his scientific and organisational work. The GTH, the Medical University of Vienna and the scientific community have lost an outstanding researcher and I myself a very good friend. He is survived by his wife Christa, two sons and two daughters. He was very proud that three of his children are already outstanding scientists in Vienna and Munich.

Klaus Lechner

Professor emeritus of the Medical University of Vienna



Bernd R. Binder
(1945–2010)

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