

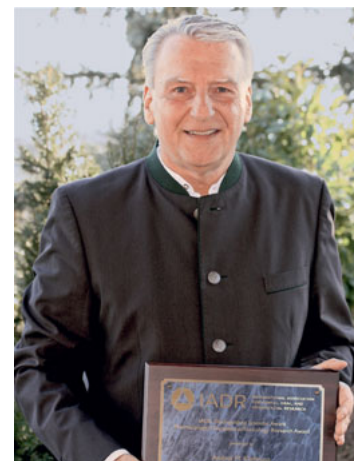
## IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Prof Andrej M. Kielbassa

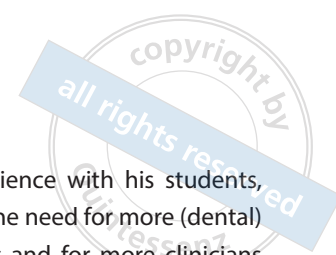
The prestigious IADR Distinguished Scientist Award, signifying exceptional excellence in oral and craniofacial biology research,<sup>1</sup> was presented by the IADR at the IADR/AADOCR/CADR General Session & Exhibition in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, on 13 March 2024 (one week after celebrating his 60th birthday), in the category “Pharmacology/Therapeutics/Toxicology Research” to Prof Dr med dent Dr h c Andrej M. Kielbassa. Andrej is the Head of the Center for Operative Dentistry, Periodontology, and Endodontology at the Department of Dentistry at the Danube Private University (DPU) in Krems, Austria. This prize is one of the most important scientific awards in dentistry, presented annually by the IADR, and recognized the overall work of a scientist in a specific field of dentistry.<sup>1</sup>

After studying dentistry from 1984 to 1989, Andrej obtained his doctorate in 1990. Except for a short period as dentist in a private practice, he began his scientific career at Philipps-University in Marburg, Germany. In 1993, he moved to Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, where he won several awards, including the Best Short Presentation awarded by the German Society of Operative Dentistry, and the Best Endodontic Case

Report awarded by the Quintessence Journal Endodontie. In 1998, he received his *venia legendi* (habilitation) and became Managing Senior Physician and permanent deputy to the director, Prof Dr Elmar Hellwig, who was his mentor. They remain connected in a deep friendship.

In 2000, Andrej was appointed Full Professor of the Department of Operative Dentistry and Periodontology at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (formerly Freie Universität Berlin). Under his leadership and with his co-workers, he has received more than 20 prizes and awards, including the Charité’s Innovation Prize for e-teaching, the Innovation Award of Berlin-Brandenburg (for the development of the resin infiltration of enamel lesions), and IADR’s William





J. Gies Award. Andrej served as Clinical Director of the Higher Professional Qualification of dental hygienists (Philipp Pfaff Institute, Berlin) and was Chair of the Committee for Verification of Equivalence (Berlin Dental Chamber). For several years, he and his colleagues of the Berlin Dental Chamber evaluated dentists who had studied abroad. In 2011, Andrej was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Victor Babeş University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Timișoara, Romania.

In July 2011, after a successful term of more than 10 years as Head of the Department, he moved to Krems, Austria, where he significantly contributed to developing preclinical and clinical dental education at the newly founded Danube Private University (DPU). In addition to his role as Head of the Center for Operative Dentistry, Periodontology, and Endodontology, he also served as Dean and Medical Director of the Outpatient Dental Clinic in Krems for several years. At his three German locations, in Marburg, Freiburg, and Berlin, as well as in Krems, Austria, he has accompanied more than 3,000 students on their journey to becoming dentists and has supervised more than 150 doctoral, diploma, and habilitation theses, thus successfully mentoring his graduate students, postdocs, staff members, and visiting scientists. Several of his former co-workers have been appointed Full Professor at various academic institutions worldwide.

Andrej has (co-)authored more than 500 publications (original research papers, reviews, abstracts, textbooks, book chapters, and video lectures), with a total of more than 14,000 citations to date, demonstrating the significant impact of his work. His research commitment includes de- and remineralization of enamel and dentin, radiation-related caries, effects of saliva substitutes, post-endodontic (post) restorations, and the resin infiltration technique. However, his interest is not limited to these topics, as it covers all fields of dentistry.

For more than 15 years, Andrej has been a dedicated and a role model Senior Associate Editor for Quintessence International, and for decades, he has served as a peer reviewer for more than 150 national and international medical and dental journals, with almost 4,000 voluntary peer reviews in total. The latter is particularly noteworthy, since reviewing scientific papers, though improving the papers' quality and increasing the publishers' reputation, often is taken for granted; gratifyingly, Andrej was recently recognized by Publons/Web of Science as a top peer reviewer in several categories.

No less remarkable, since graduating in dentistry in 1989, he has always practiced dentistry alongside his academic work. Thus, he has been able to share not only his extensive scientific

expertise but also his clinical experience with his students, postdocs, and colleagues. Recently, the need for more (dental) scientists who understand the clinic and for more clinicians who are familiar with the research process and methods has been reiterated,<sup>2</sup> and undoubtedly, Andrej is a living example for such an inspired, meritorious, and significant amalgamation of academic science, teaching, and practice. He has always encouraged junior faculty members to devote adequate amounts of their time to both research as well as teaching and clinical work.

Congratulations to our friend Andrej for his 60th birthday and for receiving this prestigious award! We are confident that the best is yet to come.

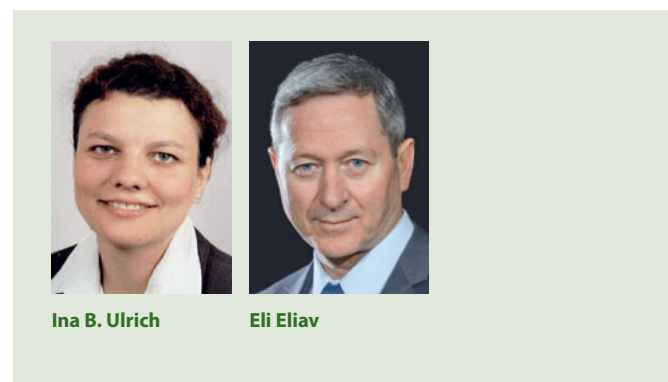
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We would also like to note that in 2020 another Quintessence International Associate Editor, Prof Dr med dent, Dr hc mult Anton Sculean, was the recipient of the IADR Distinguished Scientist Award in Periodontal Disease Research.



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Eli Eliav