



Prof Dr med habil Dr rer nat Lutz Stößer, 1943–2009



It is my sad obligation to inform you that Prof Lutz Stößer, member of our editorial board, passed away in the last days of September this year. He has served *OH&PD* with his expertise in caries prevention, microbiology and as an expert for tooth-friendly sweets.

Lutz Stößer was born into a dentist's family in Dresden, Germany, where he went to school. His first academic training was obtained in Volgograd (Russia), where he studied dentistry, but earned a Doctorate in Biological Sciences (Dr rer nat). In 1969, he returned to Germany and became a scientist at the Physiological-Chemical Institute of the Martin Luther University in Halle/Wittenberg, where he was interested in dentistry from the theoretical aspect, by becoming a coworker in a large research project about caries prevention. In 1974, he started his second academic education in medicine, which he accomplished by obtaining a speciality degree in biochemistry (Dr med, Facharzt für Biochemie). In his further academic career, he moved into dentistry in 1976, where he obtained his Habilitation and Venia Legendi in Preventive Dentistry in 1985. Ten years later, he became the director of the Department of Preventive Dentistry at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, after having obtained the full Professor degree in Erfurt in 1993.

Cariology has remained Prof Stößer's focus of interest all of his life. He was an active member of the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA) and has focused more and more on the influence of diet on caries development. Due to the development of a pH-telemetry station in his laboratory, he could intensively study the influence of sugar substitutes such as xylitol, sorbitol, mannitol, polydextrose and many others on plaque metabolism. His laboratory became the key testing station in Germany for tooth-friendly sweets, that had to pass his test to carry the corresponding logo.

Lutz Stößer has served the community by publishing more than 300 papers and giving more than 450 presentations. He was honoured with many academic awards and prizes and served the academic community by being a member in many societies. Furthermore, he was active in different editorial boards as well as in juries for academic/scientific awards.

We will keep Lutz Stößer in good memory for all his contributions to Preventive Dentistry and thank him for his services to *OH&PD*.

JFR, Editor