

## Obituary for Prof. Reinhold E Schmidt, MD (1951 – 2022)

It is with a heavy heart that I write this obituary for my dear friend Reinhold Schmidt, who passed away on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our friendship stems from organizing the Fourth Leukocyte Typing Workshop in 1987-1989, where Reinhold led the Non-Lineage/Natural Killer Cell Section. Reinhold impressed me with his power of ideas and agility. Almost every time we had an organizational meeting, he turned the organizational plan inside out with new ideas. And he often annoyed us. Especially when we went into the retreat to compile the workshop data and manuscripts for the Leukocyte Typing IV workshop proceedings. Shortly after the start of the retreat, he came up with a new concept that completely changed the structure of the book we had been developing for months and involved an enormous amount of work. After initial protests, we then realized that Reinhold was right and Leukocyte Typing IV became the cult reference book for CD-monoclonal antibodies and CD-molecules in the 1990s. With his agility, Reinhold regularly tore us out of our comfort zone and showed the way.



Reinhold is the model of social skills that made him an exceptional highly competent physician for inborn errors of immunity, rheumatoid arthritis and HIV. His social heart was so big that he not only addressed his patients and employees at his Clinic for Immunology and Rheumatology at the Hannover Medical School (MHH), he wanted to touch the whole world with it. It is impossible to list his commitment and his work in all the committees and societies. As examples, I would like to mention his work ♦ as the founder of the MD/PhD school at the MHH; ♦ as president and board member of the German Society for Immunology (DGfI) and as its tireless, decades-long fighter for the specialist-immunologist, who would not exist without Reinhold; ♦ as Treasurer of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS) from 1998-2006 – During this period he co-initiated the Day of Immunology on April 29th and became the mastermind of the European Congress of Immunology (ECI). By founding the EFIS-European Economy Interest Group (EFIS-EEIG), he placed the ECIs on a secure financial and organizational basis. After the successful pilot project of the 1st ECI 2006 in Paris, he consolidated the ECIs with the organization of the legendary 2nd ECI 2009 in Berlin. - ♦ as the long-standing Chair of the Clinical Immunology Committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), which he chaired until the end of last year.

Reinhold has been also friend of the Austrian Society for Allergology and Immunology (ÖGAI) for almost four decades. Therefore, he participated with all his strength and joy in the organization of the joint annual conference of the DGfI and ÖGAI in Hanover. This conference should already have taken place in 2020. However, COVID has postponed it to 2022. Although Reinhold can no longer be there physically, he will continue to work with his ideas at the joint conference in 2022. However, Reinhold not only loved Austria scientifically/professionally, but also privately for vacations, which due to his nature always had to be accompanied by a sporty note. Therefore, also a stay in Vienna always had to be combined with a sporting program, such as the hike to the Habsburg Observatory on Vienna's Hermannskogel in 2016, which is documented by the photo above.

Whenever Reinhold and I met, there was always a friendly verbal exchange of blows. This was also the case in 2006 in a bar in Hanover, where we bet on whether one of us would be alive on his 80th birthday. Should one of us experience the 80s, he must be invited by the other: Reinhold by me to a wellness holiday in the Alps, me by Reinhold to a top meal in the Reichstag in Berlin. We recorded the agreement on a napkin and every year on his birthday on December 17<sup>th</sup>, I sent him a photo of the napkin-agreement as a reminder. When he called me last summer and said, "You won the bet," I thought it was a joke. Now it is certain. I would have loved to have redeemed the bet!

Reinhold's great social heart belongs at the core to his beloved family, to whom I sadly send my sincere condolences.

Hannes Stockinger