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Editorial: Dedicated to Professor Peter Krumbiegel on the occasion of his 85th birthday

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EDITORIAL

Dedicated to Professor Peter Krumbiegel on the occasion of his 85th birthday

In the pink of health, our co-editor Professor Peter Krumbiegel celebrated his 85th birthday on 13 January 2021. With this editorial, we would like to give a special accolade to Peter as an experienced and well-known isotope chemist. More than 60 years ago, in 1957/58, he started his career at the *Institut für physikalische Stofftrennung* of the East German Academy of Sciences. When asked about his first research steps in Leipzig, Peter describes his work under the leadership of Justus Mühlenpfordt (one of the founders of the journal *Isotopenpraxis*) and Nobel laureate Gustav Hertz as ‘pioneering’ – just like founding a startup nowadays. Leipzig’s new isotope research center hosted the international isotope conferences *Arbeitstagung über Stabile Isotope (ASTI)*, an ‘excellent platform for us youngsters to discuss with the well-known isotope scientists Jacob Bigeleisen and Max Wolfsberg from the USA’, he brims with enthusiasm.

Based on this early scientific experience and mentored by Heinrich Hübner (then chief-editor of *Isotopenpraxis*), Peter Krumbiegel extended his research on applications of stable isotopes from ^{15}N -labelling in organic reaction systems (Ph.D., University of Leipzig in 1963) to large deuterium isotope effects in auto-oxidation reactions of organic compounds up to technical applications. When he joined Hans Faust’s team at the Central Institute for Isotope and Radiation Research (*ZfI*) in 1979, he focused on new stable isotope applications in human medicine using new diagnostic methods for non-invasive organ function tests with ^{15}N and ^{13}C labelled compounds. We hear Peter himself saying: ‘This was the most productive and successful time in my scientific career’ (see also *Isot Environ Health Stud.* 51(4):485-487). From 1992 on, he continued his research into the application of stable isotopes in environmental medicine and epidemiology in the Department Human Exposure Research and Epidemiology at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ.

When Professor Hübner passed away in 1992, Peter took over the chief-editor job of the then only isotope journal under the new designation *Isotopes in Environmental and Health Studies*. He succeeded in turning the journal into an internationally renowned periodical in isotope research. Still very active today, Peter is eager to review and correct manuscripts, particularly emphasizing the correct isotope terminology in the articles submitted to our journal. Whether it be redundancies with regards to content, typographical errors or just verbal sloppiness – nothing escapes his vigilant eyes.

At the time of the Academy of Sciences, Peter Krumbiegel was also actively involved in the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft stabiler Isotope* organized at the *ZfI* in Leipzig. Together with Hans Faust and Klaus Jung, they hosted the first all-German conference of the unified *German Association on Stable Isotope Research (GASIR/ASI)* in Leipzig in 1991. At the 30th *ASI* meeting in Dresden 2019, Peter Krumbiegel was appointed honorary member of the *GASIR* for his work on stable isotope applications (see photo).

<photo around here>

Dear Peter, we wish you all the best and good health, and may the music of J. S. Bach give pleasure to you for many years to come!

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The *GASIR* awarded the honorary membership to Peter Krumbiegel (right), complimented by Michael Zech and Paul Königer (from left) from the *GASIR* board.