Prof. Dr. Jörg Emmrich, MD
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Born on November 21, 1952 in Halle, in the former East Germany, Emmrich graduated with an MD degree from the University of Leipzig in 1976. Afterwards, he spent five years as a researcher at the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Leipzig and received an in-depth education in biochemical and immunological methods. In 1982, Jörg Emmrich and his family moved to Rostock where he started as an assistant physician at the Department of Medicine and became a consultant in internal medicine and subspecialist in gastroenterology. For many years Jörg Emmrich was the leading senior physician of the Division of Gastroenterology, and in 1997 he was appointed to a professorial position in this discipline in Rostock.

Jörg Emmrich’s special interests as a clinician were in the fields of pancreatology and inflammatory bowel diseases. He always paid particular attention to translational research in clinical medicine as well as to the rapid introduction of new therapeutic options into practice. He was also a highly appreciated academic teacher who trained generations of medical students and young physicians, inspiring many to pursue basic and clinical research projects. Most of all, however, Jörg Emmrich was a highly motivated and gifted scientist. Although his research interests were widespread throughout the field of gastroenterology, pancreatology was his main focus for at least 20 years. He initiated and successfully completed a variety of projects, most of them funded by third parties and mainly on chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. As a central theme, he studied the role of the immune system in inflammation and tumor progression.

The untimely and unexpected demise of Professor Jörg Emmrich, M.D., in Rostock, at the age of only 58, has deprived the field of pancreatology of one of its outstanding and influential investigators. On behalf of the community of pancreatologists, deep sympathy is extended to his family. Jörg Emmrich was Professor of Gastroenterology in the Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine II at the University of Rostock, Germany.
His special research achievements include the establishment and detailed characterization of an acknowledged model of chronic pancreatitis, dibutyltin dichloride-induced pancreatitis in rats [1], and pioneering work on the experimental bacteriolytic therapy of pancreatic cancer [2]. Furthermore, he made a significant contribution to the rapidly developing field of research on pancreatic fibrosis by addressing the role of bone marrow-derived progenitor cells in this process [3].

Finally, we would like to add a personal note: we each had the privilege and benefit of working with Jörg Emmrich. We will remember him always as an open-minded and friendly mentor and colleague, a successful physician, and an enthusiastic scientist.

References