Hans Christian Korting, 1952–2012

The Society for Dermopharmacy (GD) mourns the loss of its founding member and long-standing Deputy Chairman Professor Dr. Hans Christian Korting. The dermatologist died on February 25, 2012 in Berlin, shortly before his 60th birthday. He was the Executive Academic Director of the Department of Dermatology and Allergology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and one of the outstanding German and European dermatologists. For almost 17 years he showed exceptional dedication to the GD, thus contributing decisively to the Society's current reputation. The GD will remember Dr. Korting with gratitude and admiration, and will honour his memory by holding a memorial lecture and creating an award bearing his name to promote junior scientists.

Dr. Korting was born in Tübingen on March 21, 1952. From 1970 to 1976 he studied human medicine at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, where he received his doctorate in 1977. In 1978, he met his future wife, the pharmacist and current Vice President of the Berlin Free University, Professor Dr. Monika Schäfer-Korting.

From 1977 to 1979 Dr. Korting continued his studies, specializing in microbiology at the central medical service of the German Armed Forces. He qualified as a specialist in dermatology at the Department of Dermatology and Allergology of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and he attained the status of professor with his thesis 'The efficiency and compatibility of new cephalosporines in gonorrhoea' in 1985.

A main focus of his scientific work was the characterization of the development of localized fungal infections of the skin and the skin-adjacent mucous membranes, specifically the secreted aspartate proteinases of *Candida albicans* as the virulence factor, and toll-like receptors as relevant intermediaries of the inflammatory host response.

Hans Christian Korting

He Focused His Research on New Drugs

It was one of Dr. Korting's major goals to develop new drugs for the treatment and prevention of fungal infections, in particular, peptides and peptidomimetics capable of inhibiting virulence factors. In addition, Dr. Korting did extensive research into mycological resistance problems as well as new onychomycosis therapies.

In addition to his search for new antimycotics, he was also eager to develop innovative drugs for other dermatological indications. To give some examples, he worked intensely on the sphingosine 1-phosphate, which influences the signal transduction during dermal inflammation, and on inhibitors of human polymerase- α as possible new drugs for the treatment of non-melanoma skin cancer.

The wealth of Dr. Korting's scientific results is reflected in his list of publications containing over 400 scientific papers stored in PubMed and approximately 20 books co-authored or edited by him. He was also editor of the journal *Mycoses*, and co-editor and board member, respectively, of many other journals such as *Skin Pharmacology and Physiology*, which is the official scientific journal of the GD.

Dr. Korting and His Commitment to Committee Work

Dr. Korting's work on committees was exemplary. He had been on the steering committee of the German Association of the Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF) since 2006, where he took over as treasurer in 2008. In the German Dermatological Society (DDG) he was a delegate member of the board and headed the quality assurance commission for many years. In addition, he was the Chairman of the German-speaking Society for Mycology for several years.

In appreciation of his international reputation, Dr. Korting was elected member of the executive committee of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), which is associated to the WHO, and is a holding of the medical societies and other national medical institutions. Also, he was member of the European Dermatology Forum, a body made up of 200 leading European dermatologists.

The GD, of which Dr. Korting had been a co-founder in 1995, was particularly dear to him. From the day of the Society's foundation he had been its Deputy Chairman for almost 17 years. The orientation and development of the GD to become a renowned interdisciplinary scientific society was significantly influenced by Dr. Korting's continued involvement and dedication.

The GD Owes Dr. Korting a Lot

It was a matter of utmost concern to him to convert the GD into a platform through which new dermatopharmaceutical findings can be made known to the medical community and the general public. The infrastructural prerequisites required for this purpose were created following his suggestions, specifically the GD websites, the official publications *DermoTopics* as well as *Skin Pharmacology and Physiology*, together with the GD's annual meetings and other events. Dr. Korting succeeded in encouraging experts from a wide variety of disciplines to join the GD and to promote its purposes and objectives. He always took pride in presenting to his partners the professional struc-

tures of the GD which he had helped to create. He was also proud that the GD was quick in responding to new developments and addressed them in a pre-political context if so required. Dr. Korting co-authored many of the GD's policy documents. Moreover, he worked hard in convincing experts, both within and outside the GD, to apply the concept of evidence-based medicine not only to the fields of dermatology and pharmacy, but also to transfer it to cosmetology as well. The guidelines prepared by the GD's Department of Dermocosmetics for various dermatocosmetic product groups are but one result of his endeavours.

Dr. Korting Felt Strongly Committed to the GD

Actively involved in organizing all the conferences and other events of the GD, Dr. Korting regularly worked out qualified drafts of the main scientific programs of its annual meetings. In so doing, he always took care that the subjects on the GD's agenda were presented in a balanced manner and that not only renowned senior scientists got a chance to present their results but also junior researchers.

Dr. Korting always contributed with his immense expertise and experience to the meetings of the board and other events of the GD, whereby he understood how to present even the most complex scientific issues in a way generally understandable to people outside the fields of dermatology and pharmacology. In addition he was always ready to answer any specific inquiries which were submitted to him by members of the GD.

He remained in office as Deputy Chairman until his death. Although his severe illness no longer allowed him to participate at the meetings and events of the GD, from May 2011, he continued to communicate his opinion on important issues over the phone. He even provided helpful recommendations on his successor in office. All this proves his close affiliation to the GD.

The GD will honour the memory of its deceased Deputy Chairman. In order to do this, and in agreement with his widow, the Board of the GD decided shortly after Dr. Korting's death to put a 'Hans Christian Korting Memorial Lecture' on the agenda of its future annual meetings and to institute an award bearing his name to promote young scientists.

The members of the GD wish to express their deeply-felt condolences to his wife Monika, his daughters, Sabine and Christina, and to his son-in-law Mark-Oliver.

*Dr. Joachim Kresken
on behalf of the Board of
the Society for Dermopharmacy
and the journal Skin Pharmacology and Physiology*