Farewell to Prof. Dr. Dr. Walter Sibrowski

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With this current issue of TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND HEMOTHERAPY a highly successful era spanning more than 10 years is drawing to a close. The Board of the German Society of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology (DGTI) is thus taking the opportunity to express their deepest gratitude to Professor Dr. Dr. Walter Sibrowski, Münster/Germany, who has been Editor-in-Chief for many years and whose tireless commitment has led to the continuous development of this medical journal.

The idea of a German-language medical journal had motivated a group of clinicians in 1973 to establish a new journal called INFUSIONSTHERAPIE. Its content was mainly focused on clinical and theoretical issues concerning infusion therapy and clinical nutrition. In the 1980s, the interest in articles on transfusion medicine rose, especially with respect to the burning questions concerning risk assessment and blood supply safety. To meet the new interest in issues on transfusion medicine, the journal was consequently renamed INFUSIONSTHERAPIE UND TRANSFUSIONSMEDIZIN at the end of the 1980s. Later, the focus of the journal became more international and the name of the journal was changed to INFUSION THERAPY AND TRANSFUSION MEDICINE. The increasing trend towards an international audience made it necessary to further develop the scientific profile of the journal and to focus on a stronger clinical orientation of the journal.

During this period of transition, the Board of the DGTI asked Professor Sibrowski to take over the position of the Editor-in-Chief. Within a very short period, Professor Sibrowski succeeded in enhancing the profile of the journal, which is reflected by yet another renaming to TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND HEMOTHERAPY, and to incorporate new issues by motivating experienced as well as young co-editors to join

the journal. Under the influence of the new Editor-in-Chief and the co-editors, the topic of transfusion medicine as well as its associated clinical and immunological disciplines came to the fore which was reflected by a restructuring of the Editorial Board underlining the importance of the new orientation. The current name of the journal does not only reflect the realignment of its scientific focus but also illustrates this development for its audience.

The following years were characterized by the publication of a number of concise review articles, covering scientifically relevant issues. This contributed to an increasing interest of the medical community in the journal. The growing international interest was also reflected by an updated layout of the journal over time; today, all scientific articles are published solely in English. Since 2008, all articles are listed in PubMedCentral so that they are freely available to a wide international audience. Professor Sibrowski has pursued this route even against the cautious reserve of some of his colleagues but always with the support of the Board of the DGTI. Reflecting the high international acceptance of TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND HEMOTHERAPY, the continuous rise of the impact factor over the last years has finally led to a level that is on a par with renowned international journals in the field of transfusion medicine.

The DGTI would like to thank Professor Sibrowski for his continuous and successful commitment that made TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND HEMOTHERAPY an internationally recognized and well accepted medical journal. Professor Sibrowski will be handing over the position as Editor-in-Chief to his long-time colleague and co-editor Professor Dr. Peter Schlenke who will continue the path Professor Sibrowski has taken.