Editorial

Henning August Bier, Munich

This special issue, *Biomarkers in ENT: Facts and Fiction*, is dedicated to Professor Henning August Bier, MD, who is about to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his birthday in February 2017. Henning Bier was born on 19 February 1957 in Hamburg as the youngest son of Erika and August-Wilhelm Bier. Erika and August-Wilhelm Bier and their 4 boys Jürgen, Wilhelm, Ernst, and Henning moved to Cologne, where they lived until they settled in Rösrath in 1972. The parental estate became a central part of Henning Bier's life, being a place of both peacefulness and inspiration. After achieving A-level grades in 1975, he started studying chemistry at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg and passed the pre-examination in 1978. In 1977, he began his medical studies in Berlin and Düsseldorf and obtained his medical license 7 years later.

Therewith he followed in the footsteps of a great family of medical doctors. His grandfather, Carl August Gustav Bier, represented one of the medical polymaths of the 19th century. Horrified by the disfiguring head and neck injuries caused by shrapnel bombs during the First World War, he developed military steel helmets. In the tradition of his grandfather, Jürgen and Henning Bier were committed to treating patients with head and neck disorders as specialists for both maxillofacial and ear, nose, and throat medicine. In particular, his older brother Jürgen Bier influenced Henning Bier's comprehension of medicine by being an inspiring example through his personal attitude and professional competence.

Henning Bier began his residency in Düsseldorf under the direction of Professor Karl-Heinz Vosteen, MD. In 1985, he followed Professor Uwe Ganzer, MD, who became Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery in Mannheim. Henning Bier became a consultant in 1989, a position he was holding until he followed Professor Uwe Ganzer, MD, back to Düsseldorf. In 2007, Professor Henning Bier, MD, became Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at the Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technical University Munich. His comprehension of daily clinical practice is characterized by

an inherent focus on enthusiastic, profound, and humane medical treatment of his patients. He was one of the first head and neck clinicians who made great efforts to stratify the overall cohort of head and neck cancer patients by clinical and molecular markers, to identify early disease stages, to modify treatment regimens, and to predict therapeutic responses. During his research activities, he focused on the molecular mechanisms and subsequent treatment modalities of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Despite enthusiastic experimental research, his work is characterized by self-awareness, setting his experimental results in a daily clinical context.

His profound and authentic clinical and experimental work made him a world-renowned and appreciated specialist in head and neck oncology. With his intellectual integrity, he constituted a broad variety of different research topics realized by his medical staff. Between October 2007 and February 2017, Professor Henning Bier, MD, will have supervised the training of 6 medical doctors.

Research activities demonstrate the broad spectrum of ENT medicine comprising head and neck oncology, otology, autoimmunity, imaging techniques, angioedema, and sleep medicine. The current special issue, *Biomarkers in ENT: Facts and Fiction*, builds a bridge between Professor Henning Bier's personal clinical and experimental vita and the contemporary question of how biomarkers can influence daily ENT practice. This special issue includes review articles that controversially discuss the current and potential future impact of biomarkers in the fields of head and neck oncology, imaging techniques, autoimmunity, allergology, angioedema, otology, and sleep medicine.

We ENT clinicians and researchers congratulate Professor Henning Bier, MD, on the 60th anniversary of his birthday. We wish him health, patience, and continuity in his work, and enough time within the circle of his family!

Andreas Knopf, Munich