A Big Applause to Thomas Nold: The Man in the Background Is Retiring

When I met Thomas Nold for the first time, I was a young fellow without any idea about how a journal and all the necessary processes in the background work. Now, 18 years later, when we met again, Thomas informed me about his plan to retire by the end of the year.

Most of the readers never had the chance to meet this wonderful person, so it is a privilege for me to introduce him to you – albeit at the end of his time at Karger Publishers – and have the opportunity to thank him for all his work for this journal on behalf of myself, the associated editors, the editors, the reviewers, the authors, and the readers.

Thomas Nold joined Karger Publishers in 1981 as product manager for all Karger journals. Since 1890, Karger has been connecting and promoting health sciences, developing continuously and keeping abreast of current developments and changes in research and publishing.

One of his responsibilities from the beginning was the journal *Respiration*. And he has remained its product manager for the past 38 years. This dedication, stability and in-depth knowledge have had a very positive influence on the journal over the years. Initially with Prof. H. Herzog and then followed by Prof. Chris Bolliger, he was significantly involved in the increasing success of our journal. In collaboration with the editor in chief, the associated editors, and editors and through all his efforts, energy, initiatives, and collaboration, the journal has grown over the years. When he initially joined Karger, the journal had 6 issues per year and an impact factor of 0.35.

Thomas Nold

He developed the journal with all the work required from a publisher's perspective to 12 issues per year and an impact factor of 2.9 in 2019.

Besides all this work, Thomas Nold initiated the journal's annual editorial board meeting at the European Respiratory Society Congress back in the late 1990s, which became a fixed event in his calendar. In 2017, he initiated the annual Chris Bolliger award, a memorial to an important editor in chief of the journal.

Over the years, he recognized the importance of the continuous contact with the editors in chief and associate editors, not just at editorial board meetings, but also during personal visits. He was highly respected for his friendly yet professional manner. Owing to this, he also played a key role in the successful negotiations for the journal's

affiliations with various societies such as the European Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (EABIP), the Swiss Respiratory Society (SGP), and the World Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WABIP). Especially the EABIP would never have existed without the continuous support of Thomas Nold and the journal, especially in the initial years.

In 2016, Thomas Nold moved to the USA as head of the Editorial Division Americas for Karger Publishers as well as continuing as subject area lead for numerous Karger publications, like *Progress in Respiratory Research* in our field.

And in 2019 he decided to retire.

Personally, I want to thank him for his friendship, his visions, his efforts, and all of his personal engagement he gave to the journal. Without his silent and often unnoticed work in the background, the journal would not be where it is today. When you asked Thomas Nold what exactly the role of the product manager within the whole process comprised, he always explained it with a comparison:

“A successful movie needs a lot of people to be successful. Publishing a journal is quite comparable. The movie needs a good script, a director and film team, good actors and audiences, comparable to the editor in chief, the associated editors, the editors, the reviewers, the authors and the readers. But without a good producer, it will never work. A producer is a person who oversees the complete production. He has to coordinate financing, directing, and editing.

The producer also supervises the pre-production, production, and post-production stages of publishing. The producer is tasked with making sure the journal is delivered on time and within budget. Finally, the producer will oversee the marketing and distribution. That is what I’m doing.”

Thomas, you did this with great style and we all thank you for your work and wish you all the best for the next part of your life together with your wife, your kids, and the grandchildren.

And for Christna and Alan, we have to continue the success of the journal – I don’t want to disappoint Thomas.

Felix J.F. Herth