Gerd Heusch

Tribute to Wolfgang Schaper on the occasion of his 75th birthday

Wolfgang Schaper was editor of Basic Research in Cardiology from 1973 to 1987. Together with Ruthard Jacob, they initiated the transition from the conservative, archive-style German Archiv für Kreislauf-forschung to a truly international journal which has grown in its impact and its impact factor (which is not really the same) ever since then. Apart from his editorship, Wolfgang Schaper has actively contributed a total of 42 articles to the journal and thus to its international standing.

For me personally, Wolfgang Schaper is not only my predecessor as editor of this journal but a true role model, both for his creative originality and his long-term persistence to consequently pursue a topic, in his case collaterals and their growth; the present issue contains his scientific legacy. When I graduated from medical school it was only natural for me to apply with Wolfgang Schaper for a postdoctoral position. Unfortunately, there was no vacant position at the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Cardiology in Bad Nauheim at this time, and when Wolfgang Schaper had organized a position for me several weeks later I had already signed off with Wilhelm Lochner in Düsseldorf. Nevertheless, Wolfgang and I have held good relations ever since then, and I can proudly call myself a friend of his for many years now.

Ad multos plures annos, Wolfgang!