Prof. Dr. Kurt Jellinger: an appreciation

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It is a great pleasure to publish a special issue in *Journal of Neural Transmission* to honour Prof. Dr. Kurt A. Jellinger (*1931). It is well-known that Kurt Jellinger is Professor of Neurology and Neuropathology at the Medical University in Vienna, Austria, and was previously head of the Division of Special Pathology at the Neurological Institute at the University of Vienna (1957–1976), then director of the Department of Neurology, Lainz Teaching Hospital, Vienna, Austria (1976–1997), and finally director of the Ludwig Boltzmann-Institute of Clinical Neurobiology, Vienna, Austria (until 2002). The driving forces which led Kurt Jellinger to perform research even after his retirement, some 20 years ago, are not as evident, however. So how is Kurt Jellinger keeping up his activities and what is it that fuels his scientific engagement?

I think he is very curious to learn more and to personally contribute to the etiopathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases in general and to spectrum disorders like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, in particular. He is the ideal scientist to elucidate the mechanisms of degeneration processes, because he is not only a clinical neurologist but also an expert neuropathologist. He translates the most recent literature and conference knowledge immediately into neuropathological analyses, mostly using his collection of human post-mortem brain tissue preparations.

There is nothing to add to our *JNT* Editorial on the occasion of his 80th birthday:

“The findings of Kurt Jellinger set the stage for subsequent studies for many research groups and his group made very important contributions towards the understanding of the underlying etiology of neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Kurt authored or co-authored more than 600 scientific publications and his studies and contributions reflect his broad and in-depth interest in a variety of topics relating to neuropathology and brain disease neuropathology.”

With his unbelievable and fantastic knowledge of scientific literature, Kurt Jellinger combines clinical and basic science to an utmost efficiency. Since 2011, he has published more than 65 original articles and reviews, most of them as first or senior author and many with internationally well-known scientists. Kurt Jellinger's scientific work is always up-to-date and of highest standard, and it is not surprising that he has received several prestigious international awards. He was Executive Editor of *Acta Neuropathologica* from 1978 to 2004 and served on the editorial boards of many journals. He is still a very active Editor for *Journal of Neural Transmission* and continues to contribute to its renown. The publisher Springer Nature and I are very grateful for his dedication and our successful collaborative efforts.

Dear Kurt, it was always an honour and great pleasure for me to work with you and to learn from you! My time at the Ludwig-Boltzmann-Institute for Clinical Neurobiology was decisive for my later career and scientific activities as head of Clinical Neurochemistry at the Clinic and Polyclinic for Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy at the University Hospital in Würzburg.

I wish you many more fresh ideas and many more international interactions and hope that we, at some time in

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the future, may combine our curiosity and eagerness yet again to publish this or that paper. This JNT Special Issue is dedicated to you in appreciation of your scientific work, your creativity, vision and inspiration. We are thankful for your cooperation as Editor and for the scientific impact of your publications in JNT.

All the best for you and your beloved wife, Lisl!
Peter Riederer
Editor-in-Chief JNT
Würzburg, April 2017