Christoph Beck (1941–2017): a *Chlamydomonas* biologist

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Christoph Beck was born on March 4, 1941 in Wuppertal, Germany, and died on July 26, 2017 in Freiburg, Germany. He obtained his PhD at the University of California, Davis, in 1972, and habilitated at the University of Konstanz, Germany in 1979. Figure 1 shows a portrait of Christoph.

Christoph became a Professor of Genetics and Molecular Biology at the Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg, in 1981, and remained there until 2006. He worked on bacterial tetracycline resistance till the end of the 1980s; his publications in this field are highly respected and cited (see e.g., Beck et al. 1982; Schneider and Beck 1986; Eckert and Beck 1989). During a visit to the laboratory of Don Weeks in Palo Alto, California, Christoph learned about the unicellular, green algal model organism *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (see: Rochaix et al. 1998). His excitement about exploiting this versatile organism for biological studies quickly converted him to a *Chlamydomonas* enthusiast and an ardent member of the *Chlamydomonas* community.

Christoph has authored or coauthored ~100 research publications. From his work on *Chlamydomonas*, we have gained important new insights into both sexual differentiation and the functions and mechanisms of photoperception

Fig. 1 A 2015 photograph of Christoph Beck. Source Astrid Beck

in algae (von Gromoff et al. 1989, 2008; Kropat et al. 1997; Schroda et al. 1999; Huang and Beck 2003).

Members of the *Chlamydomonas* community, numerous friends and his family will dearly miss him.

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