

## Happy birthday, Mr. President...

Bernd Salzberger · Johannes Bogner

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This issue of *Infection* is not a special issue—this is usually reserved for much older and mostly already inactive scientists.

Gerd Fätkenheuer only turns 60 on March 5th this year (and 60 is the forty of olden days) and is very active, both as a clinical scientist and in treating infectious diseases as a clinical specialty. Gerd has now been an infectious disease clinician and scientist for nearly 30 years, all at the University Hospital of Cologne and he is the current president of the German Infectious Disease Society (DGI).

So this issue of *INFECTION* timely contains four contributions dedicated to Gerd Fätkenheuer on the occasion of his birthday and I may say we all (the editorial board, the DGI, and many colleagues and friends) are proud to congratulate him so. I know it will be a surprise—he is much too modest to expect this.

Two of the contributions deal with cohort analysis, one (Rockstroh) with the contributions of the Cologne-Bonn Cohort to the rapidly emerging literature on the clinical efficacy of antiretroviral therapy, first as a single cohort, later in collaboration with international cohorts.

The second cohort analysis (Demir et al.) focuses on chronic Hepatitis B, also from the University Clinic of Cologne. Chronic Hepatitis B at this time with HIV

remains the most important chronic viral infections and is a huge challenge for medical management, especially in regard to hepatic cellular carcinoma.

The third publication (Wenzel) demonstrates how developments in medical economics can threaten the quality of care, especially in regard to specialties as infectious diseases. The authors, Richard Wenzel and Michael Edmond are long term supporters of the small group of German clinicians, who set out in the 1990s to (re-) develop infectious diseases as a clinical specialty. Both have trained a number of these clinicians and have always stayed in touch, giving support and advice. As always, we should listen; their advice is timely and should be taken seriously.

The last publication is a review of the current status of new antibiotics in clinical development (Draenert). The rising rates of antibiotic resistance especially in gram-negative enterobacteriaceae and non fermenters pose a threat to many patients and to medicine as we know it. The race for new antibiotics has restarted and this will be a huge challenge for the future.

All contributions look back on successful developments in clinical infectious diseases, where Gerd has participated. They also point to the work for the years to come, both for him and the many colleagues he worked with and trained and motivated so much in the last 30 years.

Happy birthday, dear Gerd, I think they all agree.

**Conflict of interest** None.

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B. Salzberger (✉)  
Klinik und Poliklinik für Innere Medizin, Fakultät für Medizin,  
Universität Regensburg, Franz-Josef Strauss-Allee 11,  
69053 Regensburg, Germany  
e-mail: bernd.salzberger@klinik.uni-regensburg.de

J. Bogner (✉)  
Sektion Klinische Infektiologie, Klinik und Poliklinik IV,  
Klinikum der Universität München, Pettenkoferstr. 8a,  
80336 Munich, Germany  
e-mail: Johannes.Bogner@med.uni-muenchen.de