

Dr. Hubert Klus, Recipient of the 2019 Tobacco Science Research Conference Lifetime Achievement Award

Laudatio to the award given by Wolf-Dieter Heller

Editor of Beiträge zur Tabakforschung International / Contributions to Tobacco Research



The Policy Committee of 73rd Tobacco Science Research Conference selected Dr. Hubert Klus to receive the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award. It is a great pleasure for me to see Dr. Klus presented with this prestigious award.

In the 1980s, as a young scientist at the University of Karlsruhe, I was working on several projects that had to do with tobacco smoking and health. One of these projects dealt with chromosomal aberrations and parts of the study were performed in Seibersdorf, a large scientific center near Vienna. That is where I first met Dr. Hubert Klus, almost four decades ago.

From this time on – for the next 10 to 15 years – one of our main discussion topics and project areas was ETS (environmental tobacco smoke). It was the heyday time of the Hirayama data from Japan, or of Garfinkel's studies from

the U.S., and a large number of case-control and cohort studies worldwide. I learned a good deal from Dr. Klus when he explained to me the concentrations of side-stream (SS) smoke and the distributions of substances of SS smoke in comparison to mainstream smoke. In particular, I learned about the huge differences between the exposure doses of active and passive smoking. On the other hand, I could teach him a little bit of epidemiology and statistics – but to be honest, in terms of who educated whom more profoundly, the scale was clearly leaning towards me getting a lot more advice. It was a more or less unilateral way of exchanging knowledge.

At that time as well as today, one has to bear in mind that asking Hubert a question related to smoking and its effects on the human body, it is most probable that you will find yourself in a “privatissimum” – with Hubert in the Professor's role.

Until the end of the last century we worked together on a considerable number of projects, especially in cooperation with our lab in Munich, which is now owned by Gerhard Scherer, and Dr. Klus' lab in Vienna.

For me, Dr. Klus is one of the scientists in the tobacco field with the broadest knowledge, ranging from the tobacco plant, the tobacco products in their broad variety to the positive or also negative effects on the consumers. In his function of a very active member of a number of expert working groups in various associations – as for example CORESTA or the German Manufacturers Association VdC – Hubert's knowledge was to the advantage of the industry for many years.

As editors of the Journal *Beiträge*, Gerhard Scherer and I have even more reason to thank Dr. Klus for his long-standing role as a member of the Advisory Board since 1981 and in particular for being a very assiduous reviewer of manuscripts submitted to our Journal.

Especially in the years after his retirement in 2002, his activities in this area even increased.

Furthermore, as an author of manuscripts submitted to *Beiträge*, he has been a hard-working and successful writer

of papers during the last 15 years: Hubert published papers (mostly reviews) on smokeless tobacco, additives and smoking machines. And he is not done yet!

Perhaps I should issue one cautionary remark to all participants planning to attend the CORESTA meeting next year in Vienna: be careful to ask Dr. Klus whether he will show you a bit of this lovely city, where he was born.

This might end up becoming something like a sporting event including a physical challenge, where you will have miles and miles of brisk walks, but also hear the most fascinating stories of important personalities, a lot of history and he will certainly educate you on Vienna being the metropolis of classic music in Europe.

The broad and deep knowledge Dr. Klus possesses goes far beyond nicotine and its effects.

I am very proud that I was invited to give this introductory note to the TSRC audience – and to you, Hubert.

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