

Editorial

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Before standing down in November 2009, Professor Bernd Brinkmann had been *Editor in Chief* of the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* ever since its inception in 1990. Establishing itself at the time as a brand-new journal, the German-language publication *Zeitschrift für Rechtsmedizin* gradually developed into the leading international journal that it is known as today, trusted and respected throughout the field of legal medicine. Its success and acceptance are not least due to Professor Brinkmann's great academic expertise and untiring commitment to his field. Throughout these 20 years, he steered the journal safely and with foresight through a number of major challenges, including a change of ownership at the publishing company, the rising impact of electronic media, and increasingly strong competition. The journal registered an *impact factor* of 2.574 for the year 2009.

As an academic, Professor Brinkmann is held in extremely high regard throughout the international community. He has been actively involved in numerous specialist and research institutes, and his more than 500 scientific publications have had an immeasurable impact on the development of legal medicine as a discipline. Even in retirement, he has kept his faith to the scientific world and continues to make a keen contribution to forensic research to this day.

On behalf of all the members of the editorial and advisory boards of the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* as well as of all members of the scientific community, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Professor Brinkmann for his outstanding and pioneering achievements and services to the *International Journal of Legal Medicine*. Moreover, we wish him great strength and energy in his ongoing contribution towards further consolidating the discipline of legal medicine.

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