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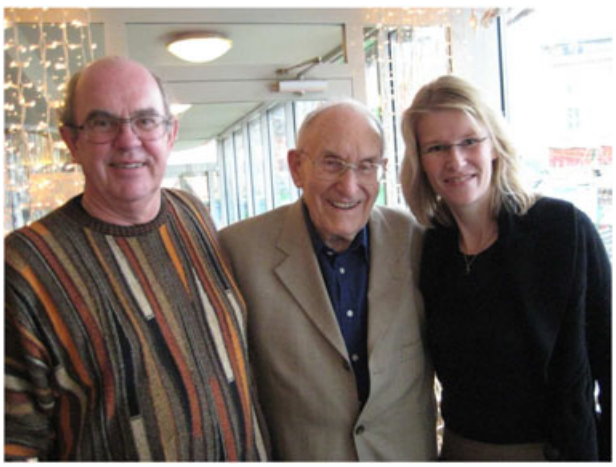
Editorial

This issue of *Journal of Peptide Science* features two superb reviews based on the two award lectures of the European Peptide Society delivered on occasion of the last, the 31st European Peptide Symposium (EPS) in Copenhagen, September 5–9, 2010: the **Rudinger Lecture** by Stephen Kent and the **Zervas Lecture** by Helma Wennemers. Both awardees are seen together with Max Brenner in the picture below taken at Café Huguenin in Basel, Switzerland, shortly before he passed away on February 17, 2011 at the age of 96.



Max Brenner has been a great pioneer with wide-ranging contributions to peptide science. Together with St. Goldschmidt, D. W. Russell, Th. Wieland, E. Wünsch, and G. T. Young as representatives from the 'West', he attended in 1958 the first informal meeting on peptide chemistry in Prague with František Šorm as chair and actually run by Josef Rudinger. With this meeting, the idea of a European Peptide Society was born and grew in the following decades into the worldwide network of Peptide Societies with their national and international symposia. Following the next EPS in Munich (1959) organized by Erich Wünsch, Max Brenner consolidated the movement with the third EPS in Basel (1960), which led then to the traditional annual and later bi-annual meetings. Particularly, Theodor Wieland with his seminal article on 'Acyl capture and N–S acyl shift reaction' in *Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem*. 583, 129–149 (1953) followed by Max Brenner with the publication on 'Aminoacyl insertion reaction' in *Helv. Chim. Acta* 40, 1497 (1957) provided the basic principles for the decades' later discovery of the 'native chemical ligation' by Stephen Kent as one of the most decisive steps towards successful synthetic access to proteins. With this innovation, almost a century later, the dream of the father of peptide chemistry, Emil Fischer, could finally be realized as well illustrated in Kent's review [1]. Indeed, Stephen Kent used this synthetic strategy to answer open questions in protein chemistry by a rational and systematic selection of targets that could not be solved even by the most advanced techniques of molecular biology. Max Brenner was a dear friend of Helma Wennemers who succeeded in the difficult design of peptidic catalysts with efficiencies for selected reactions that compete with those of present day available organic and organometallic catalysts. Her group also succeeded in the design of peptides that control the formation of metal nanoparticles and provided a great perspective in the field of nanotechnology as well illustrated in her Zervas Lecture review [2].

Luis Moroder, May 2012

References

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2 Wennemers H. Peptides as asymmetric catalysts and templates for the controlled formation of Ag nanoparticles. *J. Pept. Sci.* 2012; **18**: 437–441.