

Helmut Ruis †

The sudden death of Helmut Ruis on September 1st, 2001 due to a viral infection at the age of 61 years marked the passing of one of the most important biochemists of Austria. The Advisory and Editorial Boards of *Monatshefte für Chemie/Chemical Monthly* together with the people at *Springer Verlag Wien* deeply mourn this loss which has taken away the coeditor of this journal responsible for the field of biochemistry who served it for several years in a very efficient and constructive way.

A short curriculum might remind us in more detail of this wonderful and energetic person and friend. Professor Ruis was born on June 16th, 1940 in Vienna. After his PhD study (chemistry) at the University of Vienna he did a post-doc at the Cornell University studying biotin metabolism. Then he returned to the University of Vienna as an assistant and engaged in the study of inosit metabolism and peroxisomes of plants and had his habilitation as Universitätsdozent in 1973. He was appointed as an Extraordinary University Professor in 1975 and investigated the regulation of heme synthesis in yeast until his nomination as an Ordinary University Professor of biochemistry at the University of Vienna in 1986. At this time he was also appointed head of the Institute of Common Biochemistry, which was recently renamed into Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology. It should be stressed that he pioneered the study of biochemistry at the University of Vienna by insisting on the formal establishment of this study there in 1975.

In recent times he vividly engaged in a variety of studies ranging from the regulation of gene expression via signal transduction processes, the nucleocytoplasmatic transport, and the proliferation of peroxisomes to the regulation of stress. With respect to the latter, Helmut Ruis had enthusiastically planned to initiate a special issue of *Monatshefte für Chemie* dedicated to stress proteins. However, his premature death prevented the realization of this project. Helmut Ruis, we deeply miss you!

Heinz Falk