

Hermann Kalchhauser †

In the afternoon of May 8, 2002 Prof. Dr. Hermann Kalchhauser lost his fight against cancer. About a year before he told me proudly of running at the Vienna Marathon. But only a few months later he wrote a letter to me stating that he had been diagnosed with a pancreatic tumor. Since then he courageously struggled full of hope against this deadly threat. Although he knew that he hardly could win, he decided to follow “business as usual” up to his last days and was full of ideas to improve teaching and administration. The Advisory and Editorial Boards of Monatshefte Chemie/Chemical Monthly together with the people at Springer Verlag Wien deeply mourn this loss, which took away the editorial assistant of this Journal who served it since 1994 in an extremely efficient and constructive way. He challenged himself to ever improve the quality of our Journal. Its continually rising citation numbers within the last years are mainly due to his efforts.

A short curriculum of Professor Kalchhauser may remind us of this wonderful person and friend. He was born in Rohrendorf/Lower Austria on February 2, 1954. After attending the basic schools he studied chemistry at the University of Vienna from 1972–1979. He prepared his thesis under the guidance of Professors Schlögl and Haslinger and graduated as Ph.D. in 1981. He served as assistant at the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the University of Vienna from this time to his habilitation 1990, and further on to his appointment as an extraordinary university professor in 1997. During this time he also had research associations at the University of Zürich in the laboratory of Prof. von Philipsborn (1986–1987) and at the University of Leipzig 1988. The “Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich” awarded an “Erwin Schrödinger” fellowship to him in 1985. In 1989 he became head of the NMR facility of the Institute of Organic Chemistry. From 1995–1998 he also headed the NMR working group of the “Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker”, and he was assigned to the advisory board of “Magnetic Resonance in Chemistry” in 2001. In 2002 the “Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker” awarded him an honorary recognition to praise his achievements as head of the NMR working group and as the editorial assistant of Monatshefte Chemie/Chemical Monthly. The scientific oeuvre of professor Kalchhauser comprises sixty-four papers and numerous invited lectures at scientific meetings and summer schools.

Hermann, I deeply miss you! I will never forget this critical but charming friend!

Heinz Falk