

Obituary: Joachim M. Mayer (1949–2001)



With the sudden death from heart failure of Joachim M. Mayer, *Pharmaceutical Research* lost a devoted friend. From 1995 to 1998, Joachim had been the Assistant Editor-Europe, and he continued to serve as a member of the Editorial Board during the next three years.

The holder of a Swiss diploma in pharmacy, Joachim obtained a PhD in medicinal chemistry in 1981 at the University of Lausanne. He was awarded a

postdoctoral grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Royal Society, which allowed him to spend two highly productive years in the laboratory of Professor Malcolm Rowland in Manchester. There, he gained the expertise in biopharmacy and pharmacokinetics, which won him a posi-

tion as a lecturer at the School of Pharmacy in Lausanne. He received tenure in 1987.

A quiet and modest man, Joachim was very popular among students, who liked him fondly for his vast knowledge, his didactic talent, and his constant readiness to help. As the head of a small but productive research group, he developed a practically harmless ocular tolerance test, and published a good number of papers and reviews on the metabolism and disposition of chiral drugs. A noteworthy achievement is the "Pharmacokinetic Cube" he recently produced together with Prof. Luc Balant from the University of Geneva. This is an interactive CD-Rom for students and professionals offering a comprehensive description of drug disposition in 1500 pages of text, 700 figures, 15,000 links and 200 definitions (www.astral.ch). Only the French version is currently available.

Joachim's untimely death has been a terrible shock for us all. We mourn a friend and colleague, and will preserve the memory of his unfailing kindness and constant optimism.

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