



**In honour of Wilhelm Doerr  
on the occasion of his 75th birthday**

On the 25th August, 1989 Wilhelm Doerr – Emeritus Professor of General Pathology and Pathological Anatomy, former Head of the Institute of Pathology, University of Heidelberg – will be 75 years old.

On the occasion of his 75th birthday Wilhelm Doerr has elected to close a distinguished period of service on the Editorial Board of Virchows Archiv A. This has lasted some decades, in the role of both Managing Editor and of member. The editors and publisher would like to take the opportunity

to pay tribute to the enormous scientific activity and personal commitment of this baroque personality and his important role in the development of the Journal.

His association with Virchows Archiv goes back more than five decades. Wilhelm Doerr was 24 years old when his first two articles appeared in Virchows Archiv in 1938. To date, more than 20 scientific papers of his have been published in Virchows Archiv and a review of his publications in Virchows Archiv was given in 1984 on the occasion of his 70th birthday<sup>2</sup>.

In 1966 (volume 341) Wilhelm Doerr took on the task of Editor, becoming the Managing Editor of Virchows Archiv A (Pathological Anatomy and Histopathology) in co-operation with Erwin Uehlinger (Zürich) when the Journal was divided into parts A and B. From the latter's death in 1980 until 1986 he performed this task jointly with Colin Berry<sup>1</sup>. From 1986 until the present date he has continued as a member of the Editorial Board serving with tireless devotion and admirable resolve. The Journal has benefited from his care for almost 150 volumes.

His Editorial work is not limited to Virchows Archiv, but includes many other scientific functions. As *pars pro toto* we mention his role as founder of the periodical publication "Berichte über die allgemeine und spezielle Pathologie" and his important role as initiator of the comprehensive work "Spezielle pathologische Anatomie" (together with Erwin Uehlinger), a publication amounting to almost 20 volumes produced in the last two decades.

Wilhelm Doerr's scientific work involved many topics in general and systematic pathology (pathomorphogenesis of human diseases, anthropological pathomorphology, theoretical pathology, malformation of the human heart, arteriosclerosis and the pathology of the gastrointestinal tract with special consideration of pancreatitis and diabetes mellitus).

He has written excellent monographs and textbooks, for example, "Organpathologie", "Atlas der pathologischen Anatomie" (with Schumann and Ule), and the "Allgemeine und spezielle Pathologie". The comprehensive review of the cardiovascular system in the "Handbook of General Pathology" is his own.

At many great congresses Wilhelm Doerr was very much in demand as an invited speaker. His lectures were characterized by clear diction, fascinating articulation and excellent documentation of the morphological observations. Wilhelm Doerr combined ideal qualities of the renaissance and baroque and thus it is not surprising to find that he has been President of many medical societies and the "Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften", and is a member of the "Leopoldina". He holds honorary membership of many medical scientific societies and honorary doctorate from the Universities of München, Mannheim (Heidelberg), Lübeck, Erlangen and Santiago (Chile, Universidad Catolica). Many other honorary awards have been made to him, including the Rudolf-Virchow medal of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Pathologie" and the Paracelsus medal of the "Deutsche Ärzteschaft".

All these Honours document the great merits of Wilhelm Doerr in many fields of pathology. His interdisciplinary activities involve broad communication with the clinicians, engagement in academic education programmes,

<sup>1</sup> Berry CL (1986) Editorial. Virchows Archiv (Pathol Anat) 409:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Seifert G (1984) In honour of Wilhelm Doerr on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Virchows Archiv A (Pathol Anat) 404:1-5

permanent endeavours for an intensive connection between general and systemic pathology and the foundation of the principles of a theoretical pathology. His broad general education and his intensive knowledge of the literature were the basis for his great success not only as an academic teacher, pathologist and scientist, but also as Editor of Virchows Archiv over a very long period. This broad background made him an informative, critical and courteous editor, a delightful correspondent and a valued colleague.

The editors and the Publisher combine with their warmest congratulations, most cordial wishes for good health, creative inspiration and happiness for the coming years.

C. Berry (London)

G. Seifert (Hamburg)