

## Hermann Bujard

### Curriculum vitae

Hermann Bujard studied chemistry at the Universities of Freiburg and Göttingen. In 1962 he received his degree in the research group led by the natural products chemist Hans Brockmann, and was also awarded the doctorate title Dr. rer. nat. in the same year with his thesis on the total synthesis of actinomycines.

From 1964 to 1966 he worked as an NIH postdoctoral fellow in the research groups under Charles Heidelberger and Gobind Khorana at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Here he devoted himself to studying the mechanisms of the cytostatic agent 5-fluorouracil, which is still widely used today. In the spring of 1966 he accepted an offer as Assistant Professor at the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, Dallas, Texas. During the next few years, the focus of his interest was on aspects concerned with the structure of DNA in solution, DNA-protein interactions and, in particular, interactions between RNA polymerases and promoters as well as between repressors and operators.

In 1969 he accepted an appointment at the University of Heidelberg as Professor of Molecular Genetics. The focus of his interest was on transcriptional control mechanisms in prokaryotes.

After taking a sabbatical leave in the Department of Genetics at Stanford University, in 1982 he accepted an offer by Hoffmann-La Roche & Co KG, Basel, to become Deputy Director and Head of Biological Research and moved with his research group to Basel. In the wide spectrum of topics that formed his area of responsibility, he became increasingly fascinated by tropical medical problems and the prospects that molecular biological approaches and methods offer for developing vaccines against malaria.

In 1986 he accepted an appointment at the University of Heidelberg as Director of the newly founded "Centre for Molecular Biology" (ZMBH), a position which he held for 10 years. During the following years, part of the research group concluded its transcriptional control work with the development of a broadly applicable "gene switch" (TET technology), while another part turned to the problem of *malaria tropica* with the aim of developing a vaccine against this "undefeated" infectious disease.

In 2007 he became the Director of the EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation) for three years.

After returning to the University of Heidelberg, his colleagues' generosity has enabled him, together with Dr. Christian Epp, to continue his malaria research, whose immediate aim is to conduct the first clinical trials for an innovative vaccine.

## **Publications**

More than 160 scientific publications and invited reviews in peer reviewed journals

## **Patents**

> 40 internationally granted patents

## **Awards – a selection**

1964 NIH International Postdoctoral Fellowship

1976 Elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation

1995 Beckurts Award for research achievements with potential for broad applications

1996 Prix Yvette Mayant for cancer research, Institute Curie, Paris

1996 External scientific member of the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg

2000 Honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Würzburg

2010 Senior Professor *Distinctus*, University of Heidelberg

2005 Medal of Merit from the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg

## **Committees and boards – a selection**

### *Committees*

Member of numerous committees in the German Research Foundation

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMFT/BMBF)

Advisor to the Japanese Government for conceiving and implementing the:

- Human Frontier Science Programme (1985/86)
- BMBF “Centres for Clinical Studies” programme (KKS, 1994)
- “Tropical Medicine” taskforce (technical discussions)
- “Malaria Initiative” taskforce (2000)
- “Vaccine Initiative” taskforce (2000)

World Health Organisation: TDR Steering Committee on Vaccines for Malaria

EMBO Council (1989-1995)

German Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat): Committee for evaluating East German (former GDR) academy institutes for biological and biomedical sciences (1990/92)

Founding Committee, Max Delbrück Centre, Berlin

Founding Committee, Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, Jena

Counsel on Biotechnology, Governor, Federal State of Baden-Württemberg

Chairman, Steering Committee on Transplantation Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of Heidelberg (1989-94)

*Scientific advisory boards*

*Centre for Teaching and Research, Kantonsspital, University of Basel (1987-96)*

Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, Jena (1993-2005)

Centre for Infection Research, University of Würzburg (Chairman 1993-98)

Research Centre for the Environment and Health (GSF), Munich (2000 – 2004)

Scientific Advisory Board, University of Heidelberg (2006 - 2013)

Research Policy Committee, LERU (League of European Research Universities) (2006 – 2010).