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Friedrich Körber:

25 Years as Managing Editor

Twenty-five years ago, on September 1, 1967, Dr. med. Friedrich Körber assumed the position of managing editor of this journal. He has since worked in this capacity with great dedication and skill, contributing to the success of the journal.

Friedrich Körber was born on May 2, 1934 as the son of a Protestant minister in Pethau, in the county of Zittau, near the German-Czechoslovakian border. His life has been significantly influenced by the varying fortunes of German history, above all by the division of Germany after the war. A care-free childhood in the parish house in Waltersdorf, during which he became familiar with the flora and fauna of the surrounding area, was terminated abruptly at the end of the war by his father's losing his position as minister. The family was separated and only reunited several years later in Beyersdorf near Bitterfeld. Friedrich Körber attended high school in Halle an der Saale, at a boarding school run by the *Franckesche Stiftungen*. The wish to study medicine could not be realized since, as the son of a minister, he was denied admission to the university. He began instead to work at the School of Chemical Technology of the photographic manufacturing works in Wolfen, and later he worked in a hospital laboratory in the small town of Zörbig. Friedrich Körber experienced the insurrection of June 17, 1953 in Wolfen. After his application for the university had been rejected several times, and he had no more hope of being able to study, Friedrich Körber went to West-Berlin, where he provided for in one of the homes of the Inner Mission. After returning to high school, he obtained his *Abitur* in 1955 and began to study medicine at the Free University in Berlin. His doctoral thesis on carbonic anhydrase and calcium metabolism was written under the guidance of Professor Ernst Schütte, the founder of this journal. After earning his doctorate he worked as Professor Schütte's assistant. He played a significant role in the outfitting of a new institute building and the re-organization of the practical courses in biochemistry for medical students. In 1970 he qualified for a lecturership in physiological and clinical chemistry, and he was appointed professor in the same year. For over more than 20 years since then Friedrich Körber has been prominent in the Central Institute for Biochemistry and Biophysics (1970 – 1976) which was established during the university reform of the 60's and later on in the Institute for Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. He began as chairman of the institute council, and later became managing director. In time he assumed extensive responsibilities in the academic administration both as faculty head and as dean of the Faculty for Basic Medical Sciences.

The first managing editor of our journal, which was founded in 1963, was G. E. Halder, who had a master's degree in chemistry. In September, 1967 Friedrich Körber assumed this position. During the course of the succeeding 25 years since then he has had a significant impact on our journal. It is thanks to this dedicated editorial work, his understanding for questions of nomenclature, his insistence on the use of uniform, modern units, and his careful preparation of figures and tables that our journal has acquired an unmistakable format. The managing editor has been of great help to the editors. While he is known to our authors as a strict editor, he is known to them as well for his willingness to give them advice and help in the presentation of their papers. Many of them have come to know Friedrich Körber personally at congresses and conferences. Through his contacts and help Friedrich Körber also played an important role in the internationalization of the journal, which began with the participation of the Swiss and Austrian Societies for Clinical Chemistry in 1977, and has been furthered substantially by the recent integration of the Forum of European Societies of Clinical Chemistry. Both the Swiss and the Austrian Societies for Clinical Chemistry have shown their appreciation for his efforts by making him a corresponding member.

The editors, the publisher and the authors would like to thank Friedrich Körber for his efforts over the years, and to express their hope that they will have years of further cooperation with him for the benefit of our journal.

J. Büttner

