A Heartfelt Thank You to Reinhold Haux

To be responsible as the Editor-in-Chief for a scientific journal for over 15 years is nothing to be taken for granted these days in our fast-paced life. Many scientists are not willing or able to offer what scarce amount of time they may have from their full schedule, and to do so for such a long time period, for the time-consuming activities of a Publisher. This was not the case for Reinhold Haux. In retrospect, we as a Publishing House were quite lucky, not to mention overjoyed, when Prof. Haux in 2001 said that he was ready and willing to take over for Jan van Bemmel as the Editor-in-Chief for our Journal Methods of Information in Medicine.

The turn of the millennium marked the start of a new challenge in the publishing world – that of digitization – which continues to this day, with even shorter time frames and far-reaching innovations and culminating in the generation of completely new publication models. Just to name a few key events: the automation of work processes in the Review and Production of manuscripts, the digital publication of articles with ever expanding possible applications for the user, the establishment of scientific publications in the new social media, the possibility to have one’s article published as Open Access.

Prof. Haux faced each of these challenges with an open mind and accompanied each of them with much understanding and patience. Anyone that has ever been involved with the introduction of a new and very sophisticated manuscript evaluation system knows of the detailed work which needs to be accomplished by the Editor-in-Chief as well as the Editorial office. Other innovations, such as the retro-digitization of Methods of Information in Medicine, were driven solely by Reinhold Haux and his determination. The fact that all articles of Methods since its founding in 1962, as well as all articles of its sister publications Yearbook of Medical Informatics and Applied Clinical Informatics are now available in digital form is solely due to his tenacity.

The founding of ACI in 2009 as an e-journal only is also the result of the urging of Prof. Haux. The establishment of this large digital medical informatics archive as well as these three Journals having the distinction of being official IMIA journals represents one of the great merits of Reinhold Haux as the Editor-in-Chief of Methods.

For the Publisher as well as the Journal, it was of course a godsend that Reinhold Haux from 2007 to 2010 was also the President of the International Medical Informatics Association, and that during this time he was successful in establishing Methods as the “Science and Research Journal”, ACI as the “Practical Journal” and the Yearbook as the “Milestone or State-of-the-Art Journal” of the IMIA. However, having contact with the other international and national societies, such as the EFMI and GMDS, was also very important for Prof. Haux. With foresight, he integrated worldwide experts from various disciplines into the Editorial Board of Methods, and thus emphasized the broad thematic focus of the Journal, which was for him always a specific goal.

For all of this, Reinhold Haux most likely benefited from one of his finest characteristics: his ability to create enthusiasm for his ideas in others. We also came to know and appreciate this characteristic of his during his regular visits at our publishing house. Throughout these years, Reinhold Haux has become a close friend of ours with whom we share a central concern: Scientists need a good publication platform which will allow them to further advance medicine and health care. In particular, it is a special pleasure for us when we are able to work with people that are as down-to-earth and courteous as Reinhold Haux is.

We thus heartily thank Prof. Haux and his Editorial Office team for the last 15 years of successful and enjoyable collaborative work!

D. Bergemann, A. Schürg, and P. Henning

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