

Obituary: Jörg Kleine Tebbe

Stephanie Dramburg, Susanne Lau, Paolo Matricardi, Margitta Worm, Cezmi A. Akdis, Claus Bachert, Bruce Bochner, Stephen Durham, Johannes Ring, Heimo Breiteneder, Rudolf Valenta, Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann

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Obituary: Jörg Kleine-Tebbe

Dear colleagues and friends,

On the fifth of January 2023, our esteemed colleague, outstanding mentor, and good friend Prof. Dr. Jörg Kleine-Tebbe passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and closest friends. Jörg had a long and illustrious career in medicine. He studied at the Medical Faculty of the Free University of Berlin. Following his specialization in Allergy (1986–1991) at the Asthma Outpatient Clinic (Free University of Berlin), he joined the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Asthma & Allergy Center in Baltimore from 1991 to 1995 as a Visiting Scientist and Instructor in Medicine. After this scientifically, but also personally and musically important transatlantic experience, Jörg Kleine-Tebbe became Senior Resident and Lecturer at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology in Leipzig. Since 2002, he dedicated himself to allergy patients in the Allergy and Asthma Centre Westend (AAZW) in Berlin together with Gert Kunkel, his previous mentor, and other colleagues for more than 20 years.

He pursued his academic interests including passionate teaching of numerous medical students and became an extraordinary professor at Charité Medical University Berlin 2017. Jörg combined science and its practical implementation in an exemplary and captivatingly enthusiastic manner, contributing to his internationally and nationally outstanding reputation. His research interest started with allergen characterization using the basophil histamine release assay and the role of the histamine-releasing factor in Larry Lichtenstein's and Susan MacDonald's laboratories in Baltimore. His broader interests included early works on allergen immunotherapy with its various

forms of application, allergens, and protocols, as well a wide range of publications on component-resolved diagnostics. He was among the first to recognize the potential of this new methodology and tirelessly brought clarity into the often-complex interrelationships of molecular allergology for clinicians and particularly young and aspiring allergists. He created formats to involve young colleagues in his fascination for allergy, and joined and led numerous expert committees developing guidelines, textbooks, and practical guidance.

For decades, he actively supported national and international allergy societies and organizations—to name some: German Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (DGAKI), for example, coordinating the first guideline of specific immunotherapy and being the president of the German Allergy Congress in 2016 in Berlin; EAACI, for example, as chair and member of interest groups, member of scientific program committees and chair and speaker of the International Symposium on Molecular Allergy. Unforgotten are his engagements as an excellent jazz pianist at the Annual Meetings of the EAACI (1989 Berlin and 2004 Amsterdam). He routinely attended AAAAI meetings, which gave him the opportunity to keep in touch with numerous colleagues and friends from his time in Baltimore. Besides his professional versatility, Jörg was always a highly appreciated speaker, team member, and guest enriching any kind of meeting with his enthusiasm, creativity, musicality, and lightness.

With Jörg, we are losing a great colleague who dedicated himself with extraordinary passion to allergy—we thank him from the bottom of our hearts with the highest appreciation and our thoughts go out to his family, friends, colleagues, and many other people who accompanied him.

Stephanie Dramburg¹ 

Susanne Lau¹ 

Paolo Matricardi¹ 

Margitta Worm¹ 

As Friends and the German Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (DGAKI e. V.)

Cezmi A. Akdis² 

Claus Bachert³ 


Bruce Bochner⁴ 

Stephen Durham⁵

Johannes Ring⁶ 

Heimo Breiteneder⁷ 

Rudolf Valenta⁷ 

Claudia Traidl-Hoffman⁸ 
Many Other Colleagues Within the EAACI

¹Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

²Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research, Davos,
Switzerland

³ENT- Department, University Clinic Muenster, Münster,
Germany

⁴Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Division
of Allergy and Immunology, Chicago, Illinois, USA

⁵Imperial College London National Heart and Lung Institute,
London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

⁶Technische Universität München, München, Germany

⁷Medical University of Vienna, Institute of Pathophysiology and
Allergy Research, Vienna, Austria

⁸Director Environmental Medicine University Klinikum
Augsburg, Institute of Environmental Medicine Helmholtz
Munich, Germany

Correspondence

Margitta Worm, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin,
Germany.

Email: margitta.worm@charite.de

ORCID

Stephanie Dramburg  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9303-3260>

Susanne Lau  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5189-4265>

Paolo Matricardi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5485-0324>

Margitta Worm  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3449-1245>

Cezmi A. Akdis  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8020-019X>

Claus Bachert  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4742-1665>

Bruce Bochner  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9411-6009>

Johannes Ring  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8236-3152>

Heimo Breiteneder  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2022-8689>

Rudolf Valenta  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5944-3365>

Claudia Traidl-Hoffman  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5085-5179>