



Correspondence

In memoriam Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Fritz H. Kemper (1927–2017)



Professor Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Fritz H. Kemper, one of the founding fathers of ESCOP, passed away on March 28th, 2017 only few weeks after his ninetieth birthday in February.

Fritz Kemper studied medicine in Cologne and Bonn and received his degree in 1950. He continued his scientific career in Frankfurt in the field of cardiovascular diseases and endocrinology and in Muenster in pharmacology. In his habilitation he already focussed on pharmacology of medicinal plants. He was appointed as professor at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and held the chair of pharmacology and toxicology from 1969 until 1993.

With an exceptional visionary view, he started initiating scientific research and policy development in many different health aspects in Germany and Europe from very early in his professional career. He impressively was involved in the implementation of numerous trendsetting ideas concerning environmental problems and consumer protection: He dealt with lead contamination by hunting munition, the transfer of components from synthetics into the food chain and played a fundamental role in the establishment of the Umweltprobenbank (the scientific organisation for environmental monitoring in Germany). All these initiatives he launched at a time, where there was hardly any awareness on such matters. He significantly influenced these developments not only in Germany but also in the European framework at a very early stage.

Besides his countless scientific and political engagements, one of his major focus since his habilitation were medicinal plants. This part in his research and commitment took most of his time during the decades.

With enthusiasm and excellent networking abilities he liaised with stakeholders in several countries to support the idea of a harmonized framework for herbal medicinal products in Europe. Their joint efforts and authority resulted in the foundation of ESCOP, the European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy, in 1989.

As chairman of the board and the dominant figure, Prof. Kemper directed ESCOP through two decades of success and was able to establish ESCOP's high reputation as authority in the field of phytotherapy not only in Europe but worldwide. In his function as supervising editor he additionally evaluated all ESCOP monographs published between 1992 and 2010. Based on his enormous knowledge, his verve and his talent to motivate people, he inspired many scientist in the field of phytotherapy in their voluntary work for ESCOP. It was a great honour and pleasure to work with him.

In 2010 the distinguished scientist and warmhearted friend retired from ESCOP and in his new position as Honorary Chair of ESCOP shifted into the role of an observer and mentor in the background.

Prof. Kemper's work has laid the indispensable basis for addressing the challenges which phytotherapy has to face in the New Millennium.

All who were fortunate enough to know Prof. Kemper and work with him, owe him the highest respect for so many years of continuous work and efforts dedicated to the development and acceptance of phytotherapy in Europe. His influence and dedication as well as his charm and humour will be missed.

We always will be proud to have accompanied him a part of his way and to have briefly shared his space. Remembering his sovereign voice, we have lost the most dominant speaker in phytotherapy and the world will never be the same without him.

With greatest respect

Liselotte Krenn*, Simon Mills, Barbara Steinhoff, Tankred Wegener, On behalf of ESCOP
 On behalf of ESCOP, Notaries House, Chapel Street, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1EZ, United Kingdom
 E-mail address: liselotte.krenn@univie.ac.at

* Corresponding author.