

KOWSAR AWARD 2010

**The Winner of the Second KOWSAR International Hepatology Award
in the 3rd International Tehran Hepatitis Congress:**

Prof. Dr. Med. Michael Roggendorf

Michael Roggendorf was born on May 9, 1946, in Munich in the Federal Republic of Germany. Professor Roggendorf studied medicine at the University of Bonn from 1966 to 1974, and also studied at the Max von Pettenkofer Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene at the University of Munich, where he also served as Assistant Professor and Head of the Diagnostic Laboratory of Viral Diseases and Hepatitis Research for six years between 1985 and 1991. From 1983 to 1985 he worked at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, Pa USA.

For the past 19 years he served as the director of the Institute of Virology at the University of Essen, and has done sabbaticals in the USA (Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla Ca.USA) and in Great Britain (Institute of Hepatology University College London UK). He is currently director of the Institute for Virology and National Reference Center for Hepatitis C Virus, Medical Faculty, and University of Duisburg-Essen now. Prof. Roggendorf has been and is still very active nationally and internationally as chairman and member of scientific and educational committees and

advisor to major health organizations and regulatory institutions.

He has served as Advisor to WHO, to the German Ministry of Health, the National Research Council for Biological and Medical Sciences as well as to several other international scientific bodies.

Over the last 3 decades, Michael Roggendorf has been continuously productive in research. At the beginning of his scientific career he developed tests for accurate diagnosing viral hepatitis A and B.

These ELISA systems detected specific IgM antibodies in the acute phase of infection. Using these test he performed epidemiological studies on the incidence of different forms of viral hepatitis in Germany. After his sabbatical from 1983 to 1984 at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, he started studies in the woodchuck and its infection with woodchuck hepatitis virus, a close relative of HBV.

These studies included the development of immunological assays to study cellular immune response (CD8+ and CD4+ cells) and its significance in eliminating hepadnaviral infection. Using these immunological tools, he could show that the chronic evolution of hepadnaviral infection is due to the absence



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of T cell response in the early phase of infection. He developed alternative vaccination strategies e.g. by immunization with the core protein or DNA vaccines to prevent infection. He with his group has done several studies on therapeutic vaccines in woodchucks with chronic hepatitis C infection.

He could show that combining nucleoside analogs and DNA immunization was able to eliminate WHV in the chronic phase of infection. These results in this preclinical model are helpful to design vaccination strategies in patients with chronic Hepatitis B. Several publications also deal with innate immune response to WHV in Woodchucks.



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In 1989 he initiated several studies on the epidemiology of HCV infections and the transmission of this virus in health care personal. More recently he developed tissue culture systems to study different strains of HCV. He also investigated immune escape mechanisms which may explain the frequent chronic outcome of this infection. Currently several studies have been initiated to develop a vaccine to prevent HCV infection. From 1973 on, he has published countless peer-reviewed papers, reviews and

editorials that have appeared in the most prestigious international journals. For the last 20 years Prof. Michael Roggendorf has been a source of scientific and clinical reference for international hepatology.

KOWSAR International Hepatology Award is an international scientific award that for the first time in the world is going to be endowed to eminent researchers who have lifelong experiences in the field of Hepatology and have extended our knowledge and understanding of epidemiological aspects, pathobiological mechanisms, new therapeutics and molecular basis for diagnosis and treatment of liver diseases particularly viral hepatitis up until now or who are likely to do so in the future.

This award has been founded by Prof. Seyed Moayed Alavian, Professor of Gastroenterology and Liver Disease and the Editor-in-Chief of Hepatitis Monthly journal, the only specialized journal pertaining to liver disease in the Middle East and Central Asia, in cooperation of Baqiyatallah Research Center for Gastroenterology and Liver Disease (BRCGL).

By supporting this award we aim to:

- Promote sound and fruitful competition among the Scientists especially the young person's achieving excellence
- Encourage and support the successful institutions in this competition
- Raise awareness among decision-makers and intellectuals about the present and potential abilities in our country

The first KOWSAR award was conferred to Prof. Mario Rizzetto, Professor of Gastroenterology and Liver diseases in University of Torino, Italy, who was discoverer of the delta antigen and antibody in carriers of the hepatitis B surface antigen. All of us now commend **Prof. Dr. Med. Michael Roggendorf** on receiving the second KOWSAR award for recognition of eminence in the field of hepatology.

Seyed Moayed Alavian,
*Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology,
 Baqiyatallah Research Center for Gastroenterology and Liver Disease,
 Editor-in-Chief of Hepatitis Monthly,
 Tehran, Iran, 6 October 2010*