

## Laudatio

# Olaf H. Drummer – Jean Servais Stas-Preisträger 2013

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### **Meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren,**

die Person, die dieses Jahr die Jean Servais Stas-Medaille der GTFCh erhalten wird, wurde 1952 in Unterrot im Regierungsbezirk Stuttgart geboren. Sie studierte Chemie und promovierte in Heidelberg am Pharmakologischen Institut über Struktur-Wirkungsbeziehungen von Katecholaminen auf der Suche nach selektiven Wirkstoffen an Beta-Rezeptoren. Als Postdoc forschte die Person, drittmittelgefördert, über ACE-Hemmer und Beta-Blocker, die in mehreren Patenten endeten. Während dieser Zeit baute die Person dort einen Drug-Monitoring-Service auf und begleite mehrere Klinische Studien mit bioanalytischen und pharmakokinetischen Methoden.

Meine sehr verehrten Damen und Herren, Sie werden mir zustimmen, dass dieser Werdegang eine ideale Voraussetzung war, 1989 in die Forensische Toxikologie zu wechseln. Die Frage ist nur wo? Haben Sie eine Idee? Ja, ich habe vergessen, nein absichtlich verschwiegen, dass das Pharmakologische Institut in Heidelberg nicht 50 km von Mosbach entfernt ist, sondern 15.000 km, nämlich in Heidelberg bei Melbourne, Australien.

In fact, the person emigrated in 1955 with his parents to Australia, where he completed a Chemistry degree at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 1973, 1975 a master degree, and 1980 a PhD at the University of Melbourne at the Department of Medicine within the Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Unit at the Austin hospital in Heidelberg/Australia.

Since 1989, the person has headed the Forensic Scientific Services at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (Victorian Department of Justice), which includes forensic toxicology, molecular biology (DNA testing), histopathology, and led many of the research activities at the Institute.

Since 2001, the person has been a professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine at Monash University (dual appointments with University and Institute) and head of the university department in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. This is the only Department of Forensic Medicine at Australian universities.

The person is a forensic pharmacologist and toxicologist and has been involved in the analysis of drugs and poisons, and in the interpretation of their biological effects for over 25 years.

The person lectures widely on this subject and has given evidence in court in well over 200 cases, and finally, is gazetted as an approved expert under the Australian Road Safety Act (1986).

The person has published over 200 papers in scientific journals and other reports and is the main author of the book "The Forensic Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse" (Arnold, June 2001), and has written many chapters and other contributions in the area of pharmacology and toxicology.

The main research focus is on the mechanism of the role of opioids in sudden death, benzodiazepine toxicology, involvement of drugs in driving, causation in death by drugs, and particularly, in post-mortem drug metabolism and artifacts. In a recent study, the effect of the postmortem interval on the redistribution of drugs was studied by comparison of mortuary admission and autopsy blood specimens. The results relativize all interpretations of post-mortem quantitative results.

The person is the Associate Editor for toxicology of the journal *Forensic Science International*, and a member of



a number of professional societies including the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT), and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI), the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), the GTFCh of course, the International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology (IATDMCT), and is currently the immediate Past President of the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) (2011-2014).

Olaf Drummer, Hans Maurer, Christine Drummer, Stefan Tönnies (Fotos M. Erkens, Aachen)

One could think that such activities do not allow a private life. But, the awardee is married since 36 years to his lovely wife Christine, who is in the audience, and both have a son and a daughter, and 2 grandchildren.

Being such an eminent scientist, the person received already several awards, among which the 2000 Australian Drug Foundation award for Excellence in Alcohol and Drug Research and the prestigious Irving Sunshine award from the International Association of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Clinical Toxicology for Excellence in Clinical Toxicology in 2005,

und heute, die **Jean-Servais-Stas-Medaille der GTFCh** aus der Hand unseres Präsidenten Stefan Tönnies.

Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Olaf!