

# Tribute to Professor Gerd Döring



All those connected with the Society were shocked and saddened to learn of the recent death of Professor Gerd Döring, President of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society 1998-2006.

Gerd was a world authority on infection and inflammation in the CF lung and made major contributions over his lifetime to the understanding of the pathophysiology of cystic fibrosis. He published a large number of pivotal papers in cystic fibrosis including recent publications in *Nature Medicine*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and *PNAS*.

His work has advanced our understanding of lung disease and infection in CF and improved treatment of infection and inflammation.

Gerd has also given outstanding leadership to the European Cystic Fibrosis Society. During his time as President, from 1998 to 2006, he was instrumental in moving the society from a working group to a vibrant scientific society.

Gerd was the Editor-In-Chief of the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis* since 2006 and was due to retire from his role at the end of 2013. As Editor-In-Chief, he relentlessly worked towards establishing JCF as the leading Journal in the field of Cystic Fibrosis.

Gerd made an enormous contribution to the world of cystic fibrosis and will be sorely missed.



*Past ECFS President Prof. Gerd Döring (left) receiving the 2011 ECFS Award from current ECFS President Stuart Elborn*



## Gerd Döring

The man with the tall smile, Professor Gerd Döring, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis (2006-) and most recent past President of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS)(1998-2006), died on July 20, 2013, soon after a diagnosis of terminal melanoma. He was 64. He was not only a well-known and highly respected scholar and scientist in microbiology, but he was inherently dedicated to professional service. He served first as board member of the German Cystic Fibrosis Association (1985-87) and then as President of its Scientific Council (1993-98). He was extraordinarily active in assisting national Cystic Fibrosis organizations throughout the world. He was a consultant for the Adult CF Association. He served on the Editorial Board of the Jornal de Pediatria, Brazil and was a member of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology. He was a very active advisor for the Italian CF Research Foundation. Of special note, he is credited with bringing the present ECFS from a fledgling state to the force it now presents today.

In 1983, he was appointed Professor of Experimental Hygiene and Experimental Microbiology at the University of Tübingen, where he had received his Diploma in chemistry in 1974 and his doctorate in natural chemistry in 1978, making, as he said pretty colors from metal complexes with organic rings and UV light. He married Cornelia in 1982 and became father to two sons, Johannes in 1983 and Moritz in 1989, who survive him. Cornelia, as a student of Roman languages, introduced him to the Italian culture, where he and his family spent summer vacations in Tuscany, and started his continuous contributions to Italian conferences, advisory councils, and training of Italian investigators in his lab. He was also in love with Portugal and South America, where he had numerous friends and collaborators, but the same could be said of nations in either direction from Europe to Australia.

In science and in Cystic Fibrosis, he was internationally renowned for his unrelenting war on the pathogen pathognomic for CF, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. If ever a pathogen feared a human, *Pseudomonas* should have feared Gerd Döring. He influenced patients, parents, physicians and colleagues in therapy to minimize and eradicate the bacteria, which he knew to be central to the demise of CF lungs. He claimed he rejected washing machines to work in Cystic Fibrosis. After his doctorate, he was initially encouraged to study *Pseudomonas* in washing machines. He rebutted that he preferred medical science and would rather contribute to understanding how this organism is able to persist in CF lungs. He did not work on washing machines, but he became famous for his revelations of common, potential sources of *Pseudomonas* contamination. He found that household and public sinks, showers hot tubs - and dentists! could produce aerosols that carried the bacteria into airways. His vigorous war on these sources won him the Mölnlycke-Preis for the improvement of hygiene in hospitals.

He strove not only to remove *Pseudomonas* from the environment, but he was equally incessant about eradicating it from CF lungs and was one of the strongest advocates of the "clean out"; that is, intense antibiotic therapy to eradicate the bacteria from respiratory cultures. He was certain that minimizing bacterial load prolonged and preserved lung function. He advanced the concept that poor clearance in the CF airways allows *Pseudomonas* to adapt to anaerobic conditions with alginate production in macrocolonies that evade innate defense and perpetuate lung destruction. The German Cystic Fibrosis Association recognized these early contributions with the Adolf-Windorfer Award.

He maintained a life long ambition to develop and introduce an effective vaccine against *Pseudomonas*, an endeavor in which he found sufficient initial success to start in trial, but was not continued by its commercial sponsor. He continued to believe that effective vaccines could and should be developed. He was very proud of his most recent work supporting initial safety/efficacy trials to testing the bactericidal activity of NO (nitrous oxide), possibly the first use of inhaled gas as a respiratory antibiotic with impressively favorable recently reported results.

Dr. Döring, or "Gerd" as we knew him was born August 30, 1948, in Nürnberg, Germany. He had something of an itinerant childhood with parents who moved every three or four years between southern and northern Germany leaving him with the feeling that he never spoke the right dialect anywhere and, thus, without long term friends. As a child, he became an accomplished pianist, whom some have said was the only person to have ever played their own piano properly. It is fair to say, however, that in the Cystic Fibrosis world, Gerd did not want for long term friends, forming many friendships of several decades among us. He had no problem with dialect, speaking across Germany across Europe, across nations, across continents, he carried an optimism and enthusiasm that was far more infectious than the microbes he studied. Gerd was a tall man with gentle and accepting ways.

He was a protective, inspiring, and caring mentor to young and new investigators. He was a genuine colleague and friend, never far from humor. He delighted to the point of childishness in telling or hearing a joke and would host you to dinner to do so. His warmth and influence always came with his tall smile, which will not be gone.

*Paul M. Quinton, Ph. D.  
Nancy Olmsted  
Children's Hospital  
9500 Gilman Dr.  
La Jolla, Ca.*

*Professor in Pediatric Pulmonology and Professor of Biomedical Sciences, UC Riverside Dept. Pediatrics, UC San Diego School of Medicine Rady*

*Talent develops in tranquility,  
character in the full current of human life.”  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Gerd has touched people's lives in many ways and I can only provide a glimpse into the many facets of his personality. The CF community is blessed with a number of extraordinary human beings; within this group of individuals Gerd has been unique both regarding the range of his talents and the breadth of his accomplishments.

When I entered CF research as a medical student in the mid eighties, Gerd was already an established entity in the CF arena having elucidated crucial mechanisms important for the development of Pseudomonas infection. Over the decades he has contributed seminal work to our understanding of the interplay between infection and the host immune response that cause lung damage in CF patients. In more recent years he has expanded our knowledge about the role of anaerobic bacteria, has explored novel ways beyond antibiotic therapy to treat airway infection and studied new immunological pathways relevant to the exaggerated inflammatory response in CF airways. In parallel to a prolific research career he has led the transformation of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society's annual meeting from a small and intimate gathering to an international platform for novel research presentations and scientific exchange; an ongoing success story.

He subsequently took on the role as Editor of the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis and established it as an important forum for high quality research of our rapidly evolving field; a task that he was dedicated to until his very end. He initiated European Consensus meetings which not only summarized the State of the Art for many areas of CF care, but also formulated key questions to guide future research. These meetings were largely held in Artimino in Tuscany; a region that was dear to his heart. He ensured that within these meetings, we would not only focus on science, but also take some time out of the schedule to listen to a classical concert presented by young artists from the region; reflecting both his dedication to foster young talent and his passion for music.

My personal relationship with Gerd was primarily driven by common research interests; whenever we met, he would take the time to sit down and listen to my ideas as well as share his own; always open to criticism, but driven by a positive motivation to explore new areas in CF research. These collaborations have lasted over two decades and I view Gerd as one of my key mentors in the field. But Gerd was more than a gifted scientist; he was also in Yiddish is referred to as “a Mensch”; a human being of character who cares about others. He always took a genuine interest in other people's lives and conversations with him would never be limited to science alone. Gerd was fluent in many languages, which facilitated his multiple collaborations with colleagues and friends in Italy, France and many other countries. He also played the piano rather well and one of the many things he did not get to do in his lifetime was to play for us on my Grandmother's Steinway; a plan that we made for his next visit to Toronto.

Gerd has accomplished many things in his life, but it is his caring personality and brilliant mind we will remember. Herman Hesse stated in one of his poems:

*“The cosmic spirit will not bind nor bore us;  
it lifts and widens us in every session:  
for hardly set in one of life's expanses  
we make it home, and apathy commences.  
But only he, who travels and takes chances,  
can break the habits' paralyzing stances.”*

Gerd was one of these individuals; he will be greatly missed by me as he will be by the CF community.

*Felix Ratjen MD PhD FRCPC  
Head, Division of Respiratory Medicine  
Sellers Chair of Cystic Fibrosis  
Professor, University of Toronto  
Hospital for Sick Children  
555 University Avenue*

## Last Winterschool in Obergurgl with Gerd Döring – a special time!

Every year in March, CF specialists meet in Obergurgl/Austria. For us - Carsten Schwarz from Berlin, Jochen Mainz from Jena, Olaf Sommerburg from Heidelberg, Jutta Hammermann from Dresden, Isabel Heesen from Bochum and Deborah Morris-Rosendahl from London - this meeting was a special one because it was the last time with Gerd. We wanted to document this memory as it is a record of two of his great strengths: science and sporting. During this meeting we enjoyed him talking and discussing difficult aspects of rare diseases and skiing down the wonderful slopes of Obergurgl with his usual enthusiasm.

Three short stories from this winterschool are very deeply etched in our minds. The first describes him as the „little boy Gerd“, the second as a passionate scientist and the third as an Indian, who knows no pain.

During the winterschool there was enough time for activities. The above-mentioned people/colleagues were skiing every day with Gerd. He was doing so well. We were deeply impressed with his skills on skis. He rode his skis like a young god! The skiing conditions were perfect and after another brilliant slope, while we as a group were sitting in the gondola, Gerd told us a story about his hat. He said that it was very important for him to “take his hat with him” as his wife had had to remind him several times not to forget it. As a piece of evidence he needed a picture of himself and his hat (see the picture below!). But this is not the end of his story... Then he continued his narrative by demonstrating the point. He was so stressed about „not forgetting his hat“ that he forgot his gloves! But Gerd would not be Gerd if he didn't have a solution to this problem. He went to the ski station and asked for lost gloves and found a pair in his size (see the picture below). We were all laughing with him with tears in our eyes.

As the winterschool is not primarily for skiing, but for scientific work, there was also a presentation by Gerd. With this presentation about NO inhalation in patients with CF we could all see evidence of Gerd's commitment, enthusiasm, strong motivation, fascinating teaching skills, visionary ideas, deep scientific and clinical understanding. With his presentation and his new data about NO inhalation and bacterial killing, he had the whole audience spellbound. The result was a discussion that was also continued during dinner. For us that was not only the presentation of the day but the best of the entire workshop. And we all agreed that if one of us ever deserved a Nobel Prize, then it had to be Gerd...

The third and last story is the beginning of his last challenge. During our scientific off-time we had one of those unforgettable ski experiences in powder snow when Gerd told us about an accident with a woman he had had. He told us that his ski pole slammed into his armpit. But he said: „An Indian knows no pain. Let's continue skiing!“ So we did. The accident was not an issue during the next few days. But when we were back in Germany I spoke with Gerd in connection with a joint project when he mentioned that the pain was not getting better. I was very surprised, because a month had passed since the winterschool. We talked about the difficulties we in the medical profession have to go to a doctor, but I suggested he should have an ultrasound or even a CT scan. The results were the recognition of a completely unexpected, fast and untreatable disease. We were all very shocked and still are. We are all nevertheless very grateful for the time we spent with this wonderful and unique person towards the end of his life.



*Olaf Sommerburg, Jochen Mainz, Deborah Morris-Rosendahl, Jutta Hammermann, Carsten Schwarz, Gerd Döring*

The German CF-association Mukoviszidose e.V. together with our members, patients, our advisory boards and working groups, our staff in the office and our supporters are very sad about Professor Dr. Gerd Döring's decease. We mourn for him and feel deeply connected to his family and relatives.

With Professor Dr. Döring we lose a successful, reliable and dedicated ally in the fight against cystic fibrosis. He was a highly committed person, who had contributed his expertise not only to his profession but also to his voluntary work. The strength of his action led to pioneering ideas in research and thereby hopeful developments for the patients and their families. He initiated successful cooperations and provided significant impulses in CF-research and to our common work.

Professor Dr. Döring was a member of our executive board and chairman of our scientific board for several years. In 1987 the Mukoviszidose e.V. decorated him with the "Adolf-Windorfer Medaille" for his successful research in fighting the infection with Pseudomonas and his extraordinary dedication to our common mission. He moved the international "CF Working Group" into an important scientific society in the subject area of CF, the ECFS. Later on, he was president of the ECFS. Hereafter, he became chief-editor of "Journal of Cystic Fibrosis", which he has developed successfully into a well known scientific journal.

For our patients and us the name Professor Dr. Gerd Döring will always be related to „Pseudomonas and its prevention“. He contributed important publications dealing with this issue. It was him, who had the inspiring and promising idea of developing a vaccination against Pseudomonas. He carried out the first clinical trial investigating the safety and efficacy of an anti-pseudomonas vaccine in the late 90s, early 00s, promoted by Mukoviszidose e.V.

His death will leave a gap and he will be missed with his work and his person, not only with regard to the association. His name and work will not be forgotten and we will always remember him as someone who fought for a better life with cystic fibrosis.

*Horst Mehl: chairman Mukoviszidose e. V.  
Prof. MD Manfred Ballmann: 1. vice chairman  
Stephan Kruip: 2. vice chairman*

**Dear Gerd,**

**having had the great privilege to meet you and work together for several years, I am now "talking" to you, being certain that you are still with us, and with us you will remain for ever with your soul, spirit, smile, great humanity, generosity. You will always be in our thoughts for your high professionalism, deep experience and scientific knowledge.**

**Gerd, also on behalf of all the persons who had the honour to meet you at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, I thank you for all your precious teachings, that will always enlighten our work.**

*Vincenzina Lucidi*

## **Farewell Gerd**

Of course he was a first-rate investigator and teacher, a mentor and colleague, and easy to call a friend. Warm, gracious, but also rigorous and determined. From my USA perspective he was perhaps the single person most responsible for the tremendous rise of European CF science in the last 15-20 years through the quality of his research, his capacity for leadership, his collaborative openness, and his engaging comradeship. I got to know Gerd in Brazil in 2001, where we both were talking at a meeting outside Florianopolis. One early afternoon as I lounged on the sunny beach after the meeting hours he came by and invited me to hike the trails of Santa Caterina island. That afternoon the hours flew as he mixed the professional and personal in his uniquely charming style. We've lost a gentleman, a scholar, a scientist, and a leader; his likes will not be seen again and he will be sorely missed. RIP.

*Rick Moss,  
Palo Alto CA*

## Dear Family, we think of you

We think of you in these sad days. Eventually the summer has come to our regions but this summer will miss your husband and father. It is terrible to lose such a great scientist and such a great person.

Before any other, when the world of CF was mainly populated by clinicians, Gerd was interested as a scientist in the microbiology and inflammation going on in CF sputum. And he never lost that commitment. When, after the discovery of the CF gene, many others joined, Gerd still excelled by his great background knowledge and originality of thinking, by his finding the right people to move the field forward.

CF was his great professional passion. And then there was music and Italy. Gerd introduced many of us to the beautiful place of Artimino. The consensus conferences fostered a tradition of working and thinking together, of listening to each other's point of view. Thereby Gerd, without being a clinician, really moved the clinical care of patients with CF in Europe forward.

All in CF will miss Gerd: his intelligence, his critical mind, his work capacity, his honesty, his at times severity and perfectionism. It is difficult to understand and accept that he was so suddenly struck by such a devastating disease, that you will be burying him tomorrow.

Only time and only lots of time will be able to soften your pain and your sorrow. But then, we hope and know that one day, you will be able to smile when you remember your husband and father, one of our pioneers in CF work. Sincerely,

*Kris De Boeck  
ECFS vice president*

## Scientist and friend, farewell

Gerd's contributions to CF will surely remain landmarks and his generosity in stimulating research was outstanding. He was instrumental in the transition of the initial European Working Group for Cystic Fibrosis (EWGCF), founded by this foresighted paediatric giant Ettore Rossi in the 1960s, to the ECFS as it is today. Beyond and above all for me he was also a kind and warm-hearted friend with an interest in the arts, literature and music, a true humanist, which did not stop him pursuing a career and clearly setting out his objectives in the interest of the Society. A very sad and unexpected loss deeply mourned by me. Farewell, you will not be forgotten. Wishes of strength and confidence to Gerd's family.

*Manfred Götz, Vienna,  
President EWGCF and Annual Meeting ECFS 2001*



Professor Dr. Gerd Döring was an inspiring researcher and gifted scientist. His passion was to translate world-class science into patient benefit. When following an idea, he could be very persistent in making sure it was made reality. Only three projects should be mentioned here shortly: He was mentoring the first clinical trial investigating the safety and efficacy of an anti-pseudomonas vaccine in the late 90s, early 00s. He also contributed a great deal to research on the potential effect of interfering with ceramide synthesis on lung-function in CF including a phase-IIa trial on the safety of amitriptyline in CF-patients. Just recently, he fostered early clinical research in the effect of NO on lung infection in CF. Beyond science, he also understood well the importance of proper organizational structures. He served as a chairman of the research board of the German CF-association and also as a member of its administrative board for a couple of years. When taking over presidency at ECFS, he made the society spearheading scientific meetings and publications in the area of CF in Europe. Gerd Döring was also a very charming and intellectually interesting individual who knew how to combine hard work with nice locations including a fine wine and dinner. We take pride in having been connected to him for many years and will honor the memory to an outstanding man.

*Mukoviszidose Institute gGmbH  
Prof. Dr. Thomas OF Wagner,  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board  
Dr. Andreas L.G. Reimann, Managing Director*

## **This is a very sad news**

He did a lot for CF and for the European Society, consistently. I had met him many years ago, at the end of the eighties, here in Milan. With Professor Annamaria Giunta (who was at that time the Milan CF Center Director), he had established a longstanding collaboration in the field of Pseudomonas research and we participated to the vaccine trial that he organized and coordinated. He was very fond of Italy, and used to come often to visit the Center, also to speak to our patients.

I had the opportunity of appreciating how smart kind and nice he was. We all will miss him very much. The deepest condolence from the whole Center to the family

*Carla Colombo and the CF Center of Milan*

## **A very sad day for CF**

It is with great sadness that I knew from the passing away of Prof. Döring. With no doubt, he was one of the leaders of the fight against cystic fibrosis: thanks to the advances made by the investigations of his team, this severe disease is currently confronted with much more hope, and patients live with much higher quality of life. As the current president of the Spanish Pediatric Respiratory Society and past President of the Spanish Cystic Fibrosis Society, I want to communicate the deep sorrow of the Spanish pediatric respiratory community for so irreplaceable loss. May he rest in peace.

*Manuel Sánchez-Solís  
President of the Spanish Pediatric Respiratory Society*

## **A sad day for the CF community**

On behalf of the Italian Cystic Fibrosis Society, I would like to express our deep sorrow for the demise of Professor Gerd Döring. We will greatly miss him for his unquestionable merits in research and in leadership, but also for his being a friend of the Italian scientific community and more in general of our country.

*Giuseppe Magazzù  
President of the Italian Cystic Fibrosis Society*



## Thank you Gerd!

Gerd was a big Portugal fan! He had several collaborations in Portugal (although not with my group) but he visited the country many, many times. It was upon his initiative, as President of ECFS, that the previous "Consensus Meeting Towards Validation of CFTR Gene Expression and Functional Assays" which I organized for 4 editions, and always in Portugal, through EU-funded CF Network sponsorship, became the "New Frontiers in the Basic Science of Cystic Fibrosis". As it was his wish, these meetings were always held in Portugal and I still organized them for another 6 years, until I decided it was time to pass the helm to others.

As ECFS President, he had the vision on the importance of basic science for the true advancement of fighting this disease. So, to accomplish this he recognized the major significance of bringing together the top scientists working in this field in scattered Europe to discuss key topics with also some of their top non-European colleagues. European science in the CF field became much more collaborative, mature and relevant, in short, stronger!

I also have to acknowledge how these meetings played a major role in developing basic CF science in Portugal, in particular for a generation of young researchers in my group, through the informal interactions with top CF scientists in a friendly, warm, and almost familiar environment which contributed enormously to develop ideas, collaborations and scientific advances. I guess that the enjoyment was mutual, as I still receive many warm comments from colleagues from all over the world... Although on a different format, these meetings still go on and are considered a major success. So, thank you, Gerd!

*Margarida Amaral,  
University of Lisboa (Portugal)*

## Gerd, you will be missed

I will most fondly remember Gerd as the consummate gentleman, always with a smile on his face and an encouraging word, whether it be for the experiments we were discussing or the benefit we might be able to provide to CF patients. His absence will be felt throughout the CF community, but his dedication and the impact of his work will continue to inspire us.

*Joanna Goldberg  
Emory + Children's Center for CF Research  
Atlanta, GA*



# Condolences...

## **Gerd, you will remain with us always**

*Dear Gerd, we will try to follow the teachings of which we have made continuous gift, with wisdom and love. The scientific board of the Italian Foundation for Research in Cystic Fibrosis of which you were a member mourns the loss of an irreplaceable friend and scientist. An emotional thinking in Cornelia, Johannes and Moritz. Thanks Gerd.*

*Gianni Mastella, Verona*

*I had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Gerd Döring at the ECFS Conference in Hamburg 2011. He was a man of great knowledge and was able to present this in a good manner for the patient representatives. In memory of a CF authority. It is a tremendous loss for the CF community.*

*Ann Iren Kjønnøy  
President*

*Ciao, Gerd*

*I got to know Gerd Döring through his work and then we became friends, both in Italy and all around the world.*

*He taught us a new way of thinking about research in our common field of study and I will never forget the brain storming held in Artimino (Tuscany) or in Milan CF Centre. Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel about Gerd's passing.*

*Ciao, caro amico Gerd*

*Diana Costantini,  
Milan*

*My condolences to Gerd's family. His death was a shock for many and me. I will remember Gerd not only as an outstanding scientist but a gentle and humanist person. Farewell.*

*Quoc Tuan DO, France*

*Sincere condolences from all of us in CF Ireland to the family of Gerd, to those that worked closely with him, and to celebrate an important and multifaceted career and significant contribution to CF care and research.*

*I was deeply saddened to hear that Professor Gerd Döring has passed away. It was an honour and pleasure to have known him. I will remember him with his outstanding commitment to CF. My condolences to his family, his friends and CF world.*

*Ugur Ozcelik  
On behalf of Turkish Cystic Fibrosis Association*

## **A true giant in CF microbiology and research**

*Gerd has contributed so much to the world of CF microbiology. On many occasions he challenged the prevailing paradigm and so often he was correct. He was a colleague, a mentor and a friend to many. And he offered hope to CF patients everywhere. He will be sorely missed.*

*Jane Burns*

*During our many contacts at the CF basic science meetings and several visits to Rotterdam, Gerd became a personal friend. I was really shocked hearing about his terminal disease, especially because he was always bursting with energy and plans for future studies. His untimely death is a great loss for the CF research community, it is difficult to imagine that we won't see him anymore at the JCF Editorial Board Meetings and CF conferences. I will keep warm memories of his likeable personality, his great communication skills and his life-long motivation to fight another terrible disease, CF.*

*Hugo de Jonge*

*With the deepest sympathy to the family of Professor Gerd Döring. The Cystic Fibrosis community has lost a great scientist, whose work has touched many. I, like many of the colleagues in this field, have lost a good friend. God bless!*

*Joe Lam  
University of Guelph*

*I have known Gerd for more than 20 years as a fellow traveler in CF research. He was always one of the people I enjoyed talking too: friendly, generous, knowledgeable, and with real insight. I will miss him and especially our interactions. I find it hard to believe he is gone from us.*

*Robert E. W. Hancock*

*Sincere condolences to Gerd's family. It was a pleasure and an honour to have known and worked with Gerd. It was for me deeply saddened that he didn't come to Lisbon at the ECFS Conference and hadn't made real the holidays that he had so well planned.*

*Celeste Barreto Lisbon*

*Really sorry to hear of this sad news. It was an honour to have known and worked with Gerd. My condolences to his family. RIP.*

*Vinciane Saint-Criq*

*Our sympathy!  
We mourn the loss of this great man, a researcher cystic  
fibrosis Gerd.*

*Association "Dzvin", Lviv*

*I was saddened to hear of Gerd's passing. He was a superb  
scientist and a dedicated professional and humanitarian.  
We will miss him.*

*Pam Davis*

*It is with great sadness that we received the news about the  
passing of Professor Döring.  
We collaborated intensively with him and his team in the past  
and we really appreciated his excellent scientific profile and  
his friendly company. He will be missed by his family, friends,  
and the entire respiratory community.  
So long, Gerd*

*Maurizio Luisetti  
Simona Viglio  
Paolo Iadarola  
University of Pavia, Italy*

*I was deeply saddened to hear that Prof. Doering has passed  
away. I will always remember him as a superb scientist and,  
most of all, as a true gentleman.  
My condolences to Prof. Gerd's family and friends.  
RIP Prof. Gerd.*

*Simona Viglio, Pavia, Italy*

*I am so sorry to hear this news about the great Prof. GERD,  
God bless his soul.  
the international community lost a great Prof in CF and  
scientific field  
My deepest condolence to his family*

*Ayman EL-SEEDY  
Alexandria University, Egypt*

*I am so sorry to hear that Prof. Doering has passed away. It  
was an honour and a pleasure to work with him, I will always  
remember the time spent in his lab in Tübingen!  
My deepest condolences to his family and friends.*

*Emanuela Frangipani,  
Italy*

*Our deepest condolences to his family. It was an honour and a  
pleasure to have known and worked with Gerd. Thank you for  
the wonderful trips and skiing times at the CF-Winterschool  
Obergurgl last years. The CF community will miss him and we  
miss him as mentor and friend.*

*Stefanie Rosenberger, Thomas Becher,  
Stuttgart*

*Please convey to the family of Professor Doering from me and  
my colleagues from the CF center of Rome condolences for  
the death of a dear friend and great researcher who has  
contributed so much with his work to a better understanding  
of cystic fibrosis.*

*Serena Quattrucci*

*On behalf of the Association Luxembourgeoise de Lutte  
contre la Mucoviscidose a.s.b.l. and the CF community in  
Luxembourg, I express our sincere condolences to Gerd's  
family, friends and colleagues. Unfortunately, we never were  
in close contact, but we could feel the inspiration that he gave  
to the people who were. We are grateful for the great legacy he  
left behind for the CF community to further build on.*

*Mike Beckers, ALLM.*

*I was deeply saddened to hear about the death of Professor  
Gerd. I will remember him in my thoughts and prayers. May  
God bless the soul and family during this time and always.*

*Nauman Chaudary, MD  
CF center Virginia Commonwealth University*

*My condolences to Gerd's family. Gerd was supposed to come  
to Geneva one week before the Lisboa ECFS Conference as an  
expert for a thesis defense. We were in shock to hear his  
cancellation because of serious illness and now deeply  
affected by his passing. "Bugs and Plugs" was the theme of  
Gerd's research: I will remember his outstanding commitment  
to CF and the CF community. Thank you Gerd.*

*Marc Chanson, Geneva (Switzerland)*

# Condolences...

*We lose a great person and a friend of all CF patients, health care workers, doctors and academic persons. He was a friend of all of us - in deep sadness we remain behind. Good bye*

*Martin H. Schoeni,  
Switzerland*

*Our community has lost a great scientist and a great man. My deep condolences go to his family and those who had the pleasure of working with him.*

*Annamaria Bevivino,  
Rome, Italy*

*Genova CF Center takes part in the CF community great sadness because of Prof Gerd Doring death and thanks Him for His great contribution to CF disease knowledge.*

*Genova CF Center*

*Gerd has been a role model for a lot of us. In the recent years we got a closer contact with each other, which resulted in a wonderful time skiing this year! I miss him as a mentor and a friend.*

*Carsten Schwarz*

*So sorry to hear of this sad news - very grateful to Gerd for his encouragement and interest, even to the most junior researchers - truly inspirational.*

*Judith, Belfast*

*My condolences to Gerd's family - his passing is very sad and untimely. Gerd was an inspiration to many cystic fibrosis microbiology researchers. It has been a pleasure to have known him since the 1990s and his research legacy in the field will shine brightly for many years to come. My best wishes to all his family and friends at this difficult time.*

*Eshwar Mahenthiralingam*

*Few years ago Gerd allowed us to stay in his summer house in Italy with our extended family. We had a wonderful time and will always remember his generosity and friendship. We wish to express our sadness and hope that his family will find the strength to deal with the great loss.*

*We miss you too, Gerd!*

*Klara Holics  
and the Hungarian cf doctors*

*It was an honour and a pleasure to have known and worked with Gerd in various meetings and committees over many years. The CF community will miss him greatly. My thoughts are with his family and friends.*

*Su Madge*

*It is really very sad news for all the CF community.*

*As representant of the the French CF Society, I will send my deepest sympathy to Gerd's family and to the members of the ECFS staff. Gerd was very close to the Lyon CF center, since he worked a long time with Gabriel Bellon. I remember very well that he was a friendly member of my PhD examining board. Thanks Gerd*

*Isabelle DURIEU,  
French Cystic Fibrosis Society, Lyon, France*

*I am so sad and I want to say how important the contribution of Gerd was to cystic fibrosis. He was for me a model and a friend.*

*Jean Navarro*

*I had known Gerd for a few years and thoroughly enjoyed talking to him about science and life in general. He will always be remembered as an exceptional scientist and great gentleman!*

*Miguel Camara,  
Nottingham, UK*

*We are deeply saddened by the death of Professor Gerd Döring. He taught us a lot about cystic fibrosis. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and competence in their classes and in their published papers.*

*Ribeiro JD.  
Campinas Brazil.*

*Very sorry to hear that the CF community has lost such a great ambassador and a true gentleman. I trust that his family, friends and colleagues can gain the inner strength to deal with the immensity of their loss at this very sad time.*

*Val,  
Belfast*

*Gerd, you are alive in what I do every day for cystic fibrosis.*

*Alessandra Bragonzi,  
Italy*

*It has been a privilege to have worked with such a leader in the CF community. Gerd was always after the best for the CF patients and hence the best for the ECFS, the CF journal and for all the research he did. It was inspiring to watch him in action persuading and pushing to get the best out of everyone in the same way that he always gave his best to those around him. He was a key player in the transformation of the European working group in to the strong society we have today. We will miss him greatly and I will treasure memories of his smile as a productive meeting brought about another step forward for CF. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

*Diana Bilton*

*Wishing to remember his wisdom in encouraging young researchers, his commitment to cystic fibrosis research, his enthusiasm, and the pleasant moments*

*Cristina Cigana,  
Italy*

*so sad to lose a dear friend and colleague. His kindness and scholarship touched the lives of so many in the CF community.*

*Brian Harvey,  
Dublin*

*Gerd Doring's wisdom and warm smile will be missed in the many European groups and meetings where he contributed and throughout the whole CF community! We wish his family and friends strength and support in dealing with this major loss.*

*Karleen De Rijcke  
(CF Europe, for the European CF patient community)*

*Please convey to the family of Professor Doering from me and my colleagues from the CF center of Rome condolences for the death of a dear friend and great researcher who has contributed so much with his work to a better understanding of cystic fibrosis.*

*Serena Quattrucci*

*At the last ECFS Gerd absence was already noticed. he is part of ECFS and should have been there. It was a shock to learn he never will be part of the meeting again. One of those things in life that are just to hard to imagine. He has been such an important contributor to what the ECFS is today. I will miss him dearly. Strength to all those close to him*

*Harm Tiddens*



Much has now been said and written about our dear friend Gerd Döring. Gerd was a wonderful person who was much loved in the CF Community. He made a huge difference to scientific research and medical care throughout his career. This has been attested to in the tributes and obituaries written about him. We have all had the pleasure of knowing a great man in Gerd and we will miss him.

Christine and I had the privilege of attending his memorial service in Tübingen. This was a very moving service acknowledging the loss we all feel. We, as part of the CF community, condole with Cornelia, Johannes and Moritz in their profound loss of a wonderful husband and father.

In due course, the ECFS will consider how to remember Gerd for posterity and will make some proposals at the next AGM.

The legacy that Gerd leaves us is for us to continue to produce focussed high quality research that impacts our understanding and treatment of cystic fibrosis. His memory should inspire us to continue to work hard, to ensure high quality in all the work we do around cystic fibrosis and to live life with a sense of fun and passion.

*Stuart Elborn  
Christine Dubois*