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EDITORIAL

A Retirement Tribute to Professor Fred Sinowatz

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Professor Fred Sinowatz

We are pleased to dedicate this tribute to Professor Fred Sinowatz following his retirement as Editor-in-Chief of *Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia*. This marks the conclusion of a successful career that has left a lasting impression on veterinary anatomy, histology and embryology. For 35 of the journal's 54-year history, Fred Sinowatz has served as our Editor-in-Chief, having previously contributed as an Associate Editor. He succeeded Professor Bernd Vollmerhaus and now hands over the reins to Professor William Perez.

Professor Sinowatz's long editorial commitment was rooted in an equally distinguished academic career. Professor Sinowatz studied veterinary and human medicine in Vienna, where he obtained his doctoral degrees and also completed his habilitation in veterinary histology and embryology. After his early academic appointments in Vienna and a postdoctoral period in Wales at the University of Cardiff, he held academic positions at the University of Regensburg. He was then appointed Full Professor and Chair of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich in 1984 and stayed until his retirement in 2013. During these years, he remained closely involved in teaching and research and regularly worked with colleagues at other universities as a visiting professor—including in Australia, Ireland, Belgium, Kuwait, Romania, Grenada and the USA. In 2016, he was also honoured to be awarded the degree of *Doctor honoris causa* by the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in recognition of his achievements.

His scientific work spans reproductive biology, developmental and functional anatomy, histochemistry and cell biology. This breadth enabled him to work on the variety of manuscripts in differing species that *AHE* publishes. Many colleagues associate his name particularly with his research and advances in gamete interaction, embryo–maternal communication and epithelial–mesenchymal interactions, as well as his later studies concentrating on stem cells and prenatal germ cell development. His work is characterised by a consistent effort to link classical morphology with ultrastructural and molecular methods. These contributions resulted in a large number of peer-reviewed publications that remain frequently cited in the field. His sustained research activity is also reflected in bibliometric data, including over 200 conference abstracts, and according to Scopus, he also has 260 peer-reviewed publications, attracting more than 8000 citations, and his *h*-index is 52.

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In 2003, he was awarded the Otto Zietzschmann Prize by the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists (WAVA) in recognition of his extensive and high-quality contributions to veterinary embryology. These achievements are reflected in his numerous publications in scientific books and journals, and in particular in the paper entitled 'Functional Morphology of the Zona Pellucida', published with E. Töpfer-Petersen, S. Kölle and G. Palma in *Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia* (2001; 30: 257–26). The prize Board stated: 'this paper reviews a functionally important topic of reproduction in a very clear and precise style with excellent illustrations and perfectly illustrates that the Laureate is a leading scientist in the area of veterinary reproduction and embryology'. Professor Fred Sinowatz has been a member of many learned societies and was awarded Honorary Member status in 2014 by EAVA. He also serves as Chairman of the International Committee on Veterinary Embryological Nomenclature (ICVEN) and Member of the International Committee on Veterinary Histological Nomenclature (ICVHN).

Prof Sinowatz has published his research internationally, and as *AHE* encourages its editors to publish within the journal (following blinded reviewing and editorial processes), he has also published within our journal. Over the years, his most influential contributions to *AHE* have included the following publications: 'Developmental capacity in vitro of prepubertal oocytes', 'Effects of growth hormone on female reproductive organs', 'Angiogenesis in the bovine corpus luteum: An immunocytochemical and ultrastructural study', 'Zur Mikrovaskularisation des Penis vom Stier (*Bos taurus*)', 'Die Heterogenität des vaskulären Endothels' and 'The relation between the testicular artery and the veins of the pampiniform plexus in the bull | Zur Beziehung zwischen der Arteria testicularis und den Venen des Plexus pampiniformis beim Bullen'.

In addition to his research, Professor Sinowatz made lasting contributions through influential textbooks and scholarly volumes on embryology and histology. These works have served for many years as important reference sources for students, teachers, practitioners and researchers, and reflect his strong commitment to education in the morphological sciences.

His long-standing service to the scientific community also merits recognition. Teaching and the supervision of early career scientists have played important roles throughout Prof Fred Sinowatz's academic career. Over the years, he supervised a remarkable number of doctoral and postgraduate students (81 in total), as well as several habilitation candidates who later assumed professorial positions at European universities. He was often invited to the Young Generation of European Association of Veterinary Anatomists (EAVA) meetings to support and guide early career scientists through publication processes, mentoring the next generation, giving lectures on the topic, and answering endless questions. As Editor-in-Chief of *Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia* for more than three decades, he influenced generations of authors, reviewers, editorial board and Associate Editors, and played a key role in maintaining the journal's scientific quality and international standing.

When Professor Sinowatz became Editor-in-Chief of *Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia*, the everyday work of managing a scientific journal was very different from what we know today. Manuscripts arrived by post, often as multiple printed copies, sometimes accompanied by photographic material or computer disks. Peer review relied largely on regular mail, and much of the editorial work involved manual correspondence and careful record-keeping. During his time as Editor-in-Chief, the journal gradually passed through one of the most significant transitions in scientific publishing. By the late 2000s, electronic submission and peer-review systems had replaced most of the earlier paper-based procedures. This change altered both the pace and the organisation of editorial work and helped *AHE* respond to a more international and digitally oriented research environment. His editorship thus spans the period in which the journal evolved from a traditional print-era workflow to the modern editorial structure on which it is built today.

In the later years of his editorship, Professor Sinowatz also played a key role in ensuring continuity within the journal. He invited new members to join the Editorial Board, later appointed Associate Editors, and ultimately oversaw the designation of the current Editor-in-Chief. This careful and deliberate approach to succession planning reflects his long-term commitment to the stability and future of *AHE*.

As we look at the coming years and the challenges ahead in scientific publishing, we are committed to continuing the outstanding work established under Professor Sinowatz's leadership. This will only be possible through the continued commitment of the Associate Editors, Editorial Board members, reviewers, authors, *AHE* administrative team and our publisher Wiley, whose collective efforts sustain the journal. Together, we remain dedicated to maintaining the scientific standards of *Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia* in the years to come.

As Fred Sinowatz enters retirement, his influence can still be seen in the scientific literature, in the institutions where he worked, and in the colleagues and former students who continue their own academic paths. We thank Professor Emeritus Fred Sinowatz for his intellectual leadership, integrity and long-standing dedication to anatomical science. We wish him good health and much personal satisfaction in the years ahead, and we hope to continue benefiting from his experience, insight and friendship.

Disclosure

William Pérez: President of the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists (WAVA). Catrin S. Rutland: President of the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists (EAVA).

Data Availability Statement

The authors have nothing to report.

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