

Distinguished Faculty,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

according to the statutes of the German-speaking Mycological Society (DMyKG), outstanding individuals with internationally recognized achievements in the field of Mycology may be awarded the honorary membership of the DMYK by the general assembly through proposal of the executive board. The honorary membership is the highest commendation of the society, followed only by the Schönlein Medal.

In my function as acting chairman of the DMyKG, it is a great pleasure to me to let you know that the general assembly of our society of 2014 has unanimously voted to award the honorary membership to Prof. Axel Brakhage. I would like to invite Prof. Brakhage to the podium and to stand next to me for the presentation of his commendation.

Prof. Axel Brakhage received his Ph.D. in Microbiology in 1989 from the Wilhelms University of Münster and the *Institute de Biologie Physico-Chimique* in Paris and the *Venia Legendi* in Microbiology in 1996 from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. In 1998, he was appointed Professor in Microbiology at the Technical University Darmstadt and in 2000, Professor and Chair in Microbiology at the Leibniz University Hanover where he also became Dean of the Faculty of Biology in 2003.

In 2004, he was appointed Professor and Chair in Microbiology and Molecular Biology at the Institute for Microbiology of the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena and since 2005, he is the Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology – Hans-Knöll-Institute in Jena.

Prof. Brakhage's main areas of research include

- the molecular biotechnology and the synthetic biotechnology of microbial compounds
- microbial communication
- eukaryotic gene regulation and transcription factors
- and the infection biology of human pathogenic fungi

Prof. Brakhage has published close to 200 PubMed listed, mostly original research papers and is a Principal Investigator in several EU wide projects. He is Editor of several scientific journals, had various functions in professional societies and is a member of various academic panels and of committees of the German Research Foundation / Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Ministry of Education and Research / Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung. He is an appointed member of the National Academy of the Sciences / Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina, and Representative of the SFB Transregio/FungiNet.

The honorary membership in the German-speaking Mycological Society DMyKG is awarded to Prof. Axel Brakhage on the basis of his outstanding, internationally recognized scientific contributions to the field of Medical Mycology, his unremitting efforts in academia and politics for enhanced recognition of the importance of Medical Mycology, and his leadership in developing the Leibniz-Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology into a worldwide leading Research Center of translational Natural Product and Infection Biology Research of human-pathogenic fungi with several high-profile Research Groups and currently close to 400 staff members.

Please, stand up and join me in my applause for this small recognition of outstanding achievements