

I PREFACE

Vorwort

What a year 2020!

This year 2020 will go into the history books as the “Corona year”. Indeed, it was not even slightly apparent to me, what it will bring, when I attended a beautiful visit to Recife in Brasil in February 2020. Our collaborational partners Prof. Farias, Dr. Stingl and their colleagues offered to us kind hospitality in Recife and we performed a very fruitful project even in this Corona year. However, “then came Corona”. This sentence will be probably the expression of the year, for the years to come... We do not remember any such an extraordinary time during our own lifetime, at least for generations, who did not experience the tragedy of the second world war or other human catastrophies. One thing we learned hopefully: How fragile and important a good social structure is.

Even in this Corona year, our group has successfully published nice papers and many students finished their master and even one doctoral thesis. Dr. Philipp Stadler completed his Habilitation for Docent title. All in all, we have used the lab capacity as much as possible without violating the lock down regulations and always keeping the Corona distances, hygienic care as well as using masks and face shields from the beginning. Nevertheless, the human loss of this Corona pandemia is very high. I want to express my condolences to all friends and colleagues, who lost their beloved ones to this terrible illness.

On the other hand, I am proud of to be a scientist, when I have seen that science has created a vaccine against Corona within less than 12 months. As we write these lines, the greatest vaccination campaign of human history is underway, to get immunization for the masses of world population. Corona has once again showed that some problems are global and cannot be solved within national or regional borders. Viruses do not care about your passport and nationality or any other local human made distinctions. We have to face such problems globally, with a spirit of “global human family”. In this sector, there is still some improvement needed, since in times of danger, humans always tend to encapsulate themselves like a hedgehog. This is not the correct rescue strategy in a pandemia, this does not work for global warming or in any other planetary problem. The scientists all over the world showed, how this can be done and succeeded with resulting vaccinations. Well done and congratulations to our colleagues in medical, pharmaceutical, biological, biochemical sciences worldwide. Finally, we are obliged immense gratitude to the extraordinary efforts of health care workers worldwide “beyond the call of duty”. They are truly the heroes of the Corona year.

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