



PROFESSOR ANDREAS RUPPEL AND HIS LIFE

Prof. Dr Andreas Ruppel, a highly revered scientist in the field of Schistosomiasis was trained as a biologist in Germany, France, and Italy; he got his doctorate degree from University of Freiburg, and his habilitation from the University of Heidelberg in Germany. With a 45-year publishing record, much of Andreas' research focused on Schistosomiasis, a topic he considered both scientifically stimulating and, in his own words, would allow him to "contribute to solving real problems". Andreas engaged not just with the scientists also the local people; it was this fundamental concern for the precariousness of the human condition that he became active in the field of public and global health in the 2000s, participating in, and ultimately directing teaching at the Heidelberg Institute of Public Health.

A passionate teacher, he pursued teaching until his demise in 2021, his topics of interest were parasitology, public and international health, research planning and scientific presentation skills. As an avid organizer, he conducted workshops for the master's students in many parts of the world, including St. Jakob in Tyrol, Austria, which he had often visited since childhood.

During his time at the Institute of Global Health, Andreas quickly moved from being the director of the teaching unit to becoming a mentor, friend, advisor to numerous students. Andreas' deep empathy and ability to listen instilled a sense of trust that offered the students a secure place in which they could discuss problems regarding their studies or life's questions in general. He welcomed one and all, irrespective of the gender, region of the world one came from, language spoken, religion, age, or professional achievement. All he sought was to connect and understand the human being inside and whenever possible make them feel accepted and welcome within the sometimes not so easily understood German culture and environment.

He gathered students regularly in his house for Sunday discussions and a warm meal; the annual Summer Schools were almost single-handedly organised in his home village Bammental in Southern Germany with participants from all over the world. He shared his books with students, played on the violin, opened his home when former students visited Germany and if any student was stranded.

Andreas Ruppel was a passionate advocate of nature, the planet, and all sentient beings. A true role model for students in Biology and Public Health, a globally esteemed and respected scientist, researcher, and public health advocate. He will truly be missed and let us take this opportunity to come together through this fund in his name to make his legacy live on.

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