



Wolfgang H. Oertel, MD, PhD is Hertie-Senior-Research-Professor (2014-2022), Professor for Neurology and **former Chairman (1996-2014)** at the Dept. Neurology, Philipps University Marburg, Germany. Following studies in Tübingen, Berlin and Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, he received his MD degree in 1976 at the Free University Berlin, Germany. He completed his PhD-thesis on “Neurophysiology/-pharmacology of the inner ear” in 1978 in Berlin. From 1978 to 1981 he received postgraduate training in neuroscience at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, USA, in the Laboratory of Clinical Science (Dr. I. Kopin). He isolated the enzyme glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), produced an antibody against GAD and mapped – in collaboration with Prof. E. Mugnaini – the GABAergic system in rat brain. In 1981 Dr. Oertel started his clinical training in neurology at the Dept. Neurology, Technical University München, Germany (Prof. A. Struppler) with focus on Parkinson’s disease and related movement disorders. He received his board qualification in neurology in 1986. In the same year he defended his habilitation on “GABAergic neurons in the CNS”. In 1986 he was awarded a Heisenberg-Professorship (carrier award) by the German Research Foundation (DFG), moved in 1987 to the Dept. Neurology, Queen Square, London, UK (Prof. D.C. Marsden) for further postgraduate training in “basal ganglia research”. In 1988 he became consultant and in 1991 associate professor at the Dept. Neurology (Prof. Dr. T. Brandt), Ludwig-Maximilians-University München. In 1996 he was appointed as chairman and full professor of the Department of Neurology, University Marburg, which he chaired until 2014.

Dr. Oertel has served as president (2007-2011) of the German Parkinson Society (DPG), as board member (2009-2014) and **president (2011-2012) of the German Society for Neurology (DGN – 8000 members)**, treasurer (2001-2002) of the International Movement Disorder Society (MDS), chairperson (2007-2009) of the European section of MDS and president (2013-2015) of the International REM-Sleep Behaviour Disorder Study Group, an organization he founded in 2009. He is treasurer of the European Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) Study group (2014-2017). He coordinates the European Affairs Subcommittee (EASC) of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) and represents the EAN at the European Brain Council (EBC), of which he was the treasurer (2016-2017) and now serves as its 1. Vice President (2018-2019). Since 2015 he is member of the high level advisory group “Scientific Panel for Health (SPH)” to the European Commissioner for “Research and Innovation”.

Since 1986 he has been serving as medical advisor for several patient advocate groups such as the German Parkinson Association (DPV) and as editorial board member of journals in neuroscience and neurology.

In respect to infrastructural achievements he founded the German Competence Network “Parkinson-Syndrome” (KNP -1999), the German Parkinson Study Group (GPS -2003), was cofounder of the German Brain Bank for Neurodegenerative Disorders in München (1994) and initiated and raised the funding for the Hertie-Institute for Brain Research in Tübingen, Germany (2000).

Dr. Oertel’s main field of scientific interest are neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer dementia, Parkinson’s disease (PD) and related disorders (dementia with Lewy bodies, multiple system atrophy, progressive supranuclear palsy). At present his focus is on the discovery of prodromal stages of PD, especially the in-depth phenotyping of REM-Sleep-Behaviour-Disorder (RBD). His > 750 reviewed scientific publications (h-factor 94) cover patch clamp recording, rodent models of prodromal PD, research on the diagnosis of prodromal and manifest Parkinson syndromes, the development of disease modifying substances to prevent the manifestation of PD up to related health economic analyses.

In parallel he keeps a strong interest in RLS, a highly prevalent sleep-pain-movement disorder, for which he substantially contributed to the development and approval of today’s standard pharmacotherapy. Finally one of his major interests is teaching to young people in order to attract them to the field of neuroscience.