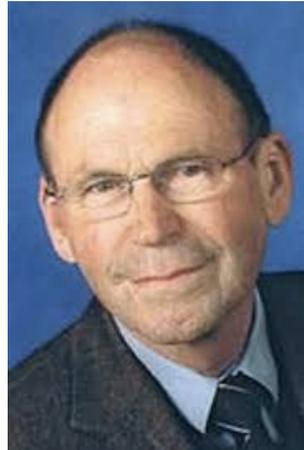


# Golden Man Mr. Sialic Acid



I had the privilege to spend some precious time with one of the great heroes in the history of the Glycoscience field, the late Prof. (em.) Dr. med. Dipl.-Biochem. Roland Schauer. Since he was my Ph.D. supervisor, and it was not obvious that we only worked together, but I could share also time outside the university and could witness his greatness as a human being and scientist. Many eminent scientists have already written about my supervisor's contributions, nevertheless, I am writing as his student who had closely observed him for few years.

Prof. Schauer has always had amazing ideas with the ability to guide us to test with simple methods, he looked at the complex problems and broke them down into simpler ones and followed them step by step by classical biochemical methods. He worked successfully and was "crowned" as Mr. Sialic Acids due to his undisputed contribution in the sialic acid research. With my background in microbiology we had discussed several topics and I started my work on the thesis with one of his beloved child sialic acid O-acetylation. The discussions on a number of different topics always were for me great personal plenary lectures from Prof. Schauer. His

great personality was to nurture and motivate students and allow them to implement their ideas, which was very much inspiring for me at that time. He always urged me to attend conferences and present my work so that I could gain confidence and develop the ability to communicate and connect with people.

His interest in research had many other branches such as nature, archeology, art and culture. I am very thankful to him to expose me to his deepest knowledge in all the mentioned fields. One of the examples is that he taught to me that microorganisms, especially viruses, would be the biggest enemy for mankind by using the terminal sugar sialic acid to get into the host cell, as we had witnessed from the previous corona virus infection sorrow that he already warned of many years ago. Although he himself was a big star he was still humble, providing more time for students and listening to them and always giving his opinion with a lot of motivation from his side. Further I have also witnessed his great effort to spread the "sweetness" of the sialic acid research as much as possible. Until he passed away he always gave his advice to many students in several aspects. He presented me not only his book on "Sialic Acids" but also the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "Essentials of Glycobiology", a bible for glycoscience students, which is a great important treasure. He was there for me as much as he could in many aspects of my life. Now is the time where I am no longer able to talk to him and get his advice. I am very sorry, and we all will be missing him very much. But I will try to follow his advice as his student. My family and me always remember him and he will be specially remembered on his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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