



**Prof. Dr. Bernd Binder passed away on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 after a long illness.**

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Prof. Dr. Bernd Binder has passed away after a long illness on August 28th 2010. With him, Technoclone has lost his founder and innovative leader and the Medical University of Vienna one of its most highly regarded scientists and teachers.

In his scientific career, which was over 40 years long, he made several seminal contributions:

In 1978, as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University, he isolated t-PA (tissue plasminogen activator, the activator of fibrinolysis) together with Jocelyn Spragg and Frank Austen. The availability of t-PA, especially in its recombinant form, has revolutionized the therapy of stroke and myocardial infarction.

Ever since, the scientific focus of Bernd Binder has been vascular biology. He established the Department of Vascular Biology and Thrombosis Research at the Medical University of Vienna, which is now one of the most productive of the University. In 1992 for example, his group identified that the endothelium releases its hormone endothelin-1 in a directed manner; that is towards the smooth muscle cells of the vessel wall and only in minimal amounts into the lumen. The use of endothelia antagonists is now one of the pillars for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension.

Another important biological concept that was identified by Bernd Binder is the signaling properties of the urokinase receptor. This receptor allows the activation of plasminogen specifically on the cell surface and by that the penetration of cells into tissue, a mechanism important for local and metastatic cancer growth. On the other hand, this receptor also stimulates cell division. This understanding could be the basis for novel strategies in cancer therapy.

Dr. Binder also strongly believed in the importance of translating basic scientific knowledge into clinical application. To realize this, he applied his theoretical know-how of blood clotting and growth factors to the development of specific therapeutic and diagnostic tools, first in the Serotherapeutic Institute and then in the company Technoclone, founded in 1987 by him.

Dr. Binder was not only an outstanding scientist, but also a leader par excellence.

We will try to carry on his exceptional fearless innovative and humanitarian spirit– as he demonstrated to us for so many years.

(Vienna, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010)

A light has been switched off with his death.  
In deep sympathy the Technoclone employees

