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Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin, where he heads the Department of Immunology. Professor for Microbiology and Immunology, Charité University Clinics Berlin. Studied biology at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, 1977 PhD (highest degree, summa cum laude). From 1987 to 1991 Professor for Medical Microbiology and Immunology, and from 1991 to 1998 full Professor for Immunology at the University of Ulm. Doctor Honoris Causa from the Aix-Marseille Université. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (FRCP Edin). Honorary Professor of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru; Guest Professor at Tongji University, School of Medicine, Shanghai, China; and Visiting Professor, Peking Union Medical College Beijing, China. Scientific interests: immunity to bacterial pathogens with emphasis on tuberculosis and rational design of vaccines and biosignatures. Developer of a tuberculosis vaccine with successful completion of a phase II clinical trial. Former President and honorary member of the German Society for Immunology. Former President of the European Federation of Immunological Societies and of the International Union of Immunological Societies. Member of the Executive Committee of the Robert Koch Foundation. Chair of the Board of the Schering Foundation. Chair of the Board of the Memento Prize. Board Member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) from 2010 to 2013. From 2009 to 2014 member of the Scientific Board of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance). Member of the Strategic Advisory Committee of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). Initiator of the global Day of Immunology to raise public awareness in immunology. Scientific advisor on “Health” for the G7 summit in Elmau in 2015 as well as for the G20 summit in Hamburg in 2017. Numerous scientific awards. Coordinator of several international and interdisciplinary projects, e.g. Grand Challenge 6 of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. More than 900 publications mostly in high-ranking journals with more than 55,000 citations (Google Scholar); h-index (according to J.E. Hirsch): Google Scholar: 125; Thomson/ISI: 100. Editor or member of editorial boards of more than 20 international scientific journals. Member of numerous professional societies and academies including American Academy of Microbiology, Berlin–Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, World Innovation Foundation and European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).