

Editorial

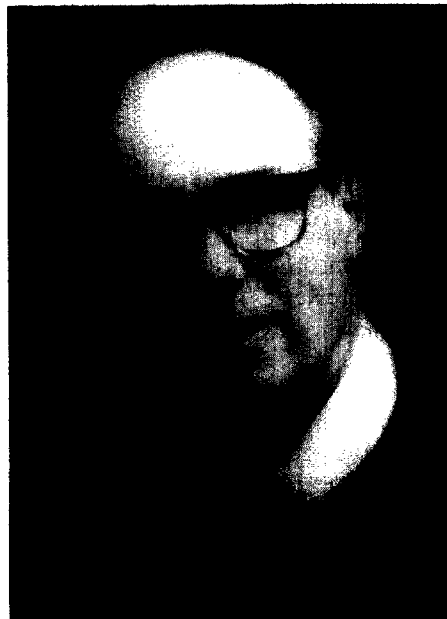


Fig. 1. Dr Alexander von Graevenitz.

Congratulations

Our editorial board member Dr Alexander von Graevenitz (Fig. 1), who is Director of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Zurich in Switzerland was awarded the 1996 Becton Dickinson and Company Award in Clinical Microbiology by the American Society for Microbiology at the Annual Meeting. The award was presented on May 20th, in New Orleans. He was cited as being among the first to recognize the importance of Gram-negative bacilli as opportunists in the hospital setting. His work helped determine the best methods for

recovering these potential pathogens from clinical specimens and then accurately identifying them. He developed special selective growth media for enhanced recovery and showed the value of using antibiotics in the design of the selective media as adjuncts in identification and as markers for strain recognition in epidemiologic studies. His recent work has focused on clarifying the taxonomy of a diverse group of Gram-positive bacilli, the coryneforms. Dr von Graevenitz was also selected to present the Clinical Microbiology Division C Lecture 'The Genus *Corynebacterium* in 1996'. We are delighted to have such a distinguished Scientist as a member of our editorial board.

Becton Dickinson and Company Award in Clinical Microbiology — Alexander von Graevenitz

This award honors a distinguished microbiologist identified with clinical microbiology.

Alexander von Graevenitz, Director of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, was one of the first to recognise the importance of gram-negative bacilli as opportunists in the hospital setting.

His studies have helped to determine the best methods of recovering these potential pathogens from clinical specimens and then accurately identifying them and have included developing a variety of selective media for their enhanced recovery. His work has also shown the value of antibiotics in designing selective media, as adjuncts in identification schemes, and as markers for strain recognition in epidemiologic studies. He has recently turned his attention to clarifying the taxonomy of a diverse group of gram-positive bacilli known as coryneforms.

Dr von Graevenitz received his M.D. in 1955 from the University of Bonn, Germany. His postdoctoral training included a research fellowship in the Department of Pharmacology, University of Bonn; internships in Medicine at the University of Hamburg and the Milwaukee Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and several research fellowships, including one at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Dr von Graevenitz was nominated by Dr Marie D. Coyle, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Dr von Graevenitz presented the Becton Dickinson Award entitled 'The Genus *Corynebacterium* in 1996' on Tuesday 21 May 1996 at 08:00 h in La Louisiane A-B of the Convention Centre.

David C. White

Center for Environmental Biotechnology,
10515 Research Drive, Suite 300,
Knoxville, TN 37932-2575,
USA