

## AWARD CEREMONY

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ACC&D founders Drs. Henry Baker, Stephen Boyle and Brenda Griffin were recognized with a Founders' Award presented by Dr. Steve Zawistowski and David Gies.

The ACC&D Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Wolfgang Jöchle in appreciation of outstanding commitment and contribution to the field of pet reproductive physiology and the development of products to control animal fertility and reproduction. The award was presented by Dr. Linda Rhodes.

### **Dr. Steve Zawistowski and David Gies' speech for ACC&D founders:**



*Dr. Henry Baker*



*Dr. Brenda Griffin*



*Dr. Stephen Boyle*

It was a fateful moment in 1999 when conversations in Blacksburg, Virginia, gave birth to the idea for convening a meeting to discuss non-surgical alternatives for contraception and sterilization of dogs and cats. We owe our gratitude to Drs. Henry Baker, Brenda Griffin and Stephen Boyle for:

- Nurturing the ACC&D idea
- Inventing the mechanism in ACC&D to mobilize an organized approach
- Raising the interest in academia, science, pharmaceuticals and practitioners
- Collaborating for the sake of animal health and welfare

If you remember one thing in this recognition of our founders, let it be our gratitude for their willingness to give something back. Our founders are volunteers. They used their talent and resources for noble purpose. We are fortunate that they found time in the margins of busy careers and lives to do something extra for the animals.

ACC&D is an example of a paradigm shift in research. Baker, Griffin and Boyle exemplify the team as the primary moving force in research. They forged a collaboration driven by mission over profit. They established a nonprofit multi-disciplinary effort for discovery and implementation of innovations in pet reproductive health.

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Baker, Griffin and Boyle thought big, and then reached beyond that to establish an international dialogue in the search for non-surgical sterilants.

They began small by bootlegging projects and ideas in the borrowed space of their laboratories. Their wheeling and dealing kept the idea alive. Our founders encouraged each other's research, and in doing so, they created ACC&D. They realized the need for a single-minded effort pushing the science forward. They envisioned the new application of science known and unknown to reduce pet population. By their invention, we inherit an organization intent on expanding pet sterilization and contraception.

Our founders perform to the highest standards. They demonstrate a range of personalities: quiet competence, steadfast persistence, durable friendship and occasional loud arm-waving, always resulting in positive achievement. Together, they represent the requirement to get the work done. They communicate a "can do" attitude and a spirit of goodwill and hospitality. And with perhaps the greatest gift that leaders can bestow, they have inspired others to join in to carry the cause forward.

To our founders: To Henry Baker, Brenda Griffin, Stephen Boyle, the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs Founders Tribute. Thank you.

### **Dr. Linda Rhodes' speech for Dr. Wolfgang Jöchle:**



I am delighted and privileged to tell you a bit about Dr. Wolfgang Jochle, who we are honoring today with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Although it is customary to honor scientists for the body of their work, scientific insight, publications, and leadership, often the other important components of lifetime achievement are overlooked, so in my brief remarks I want to make sure you know of some of his personal triumphs as well.

Dr. Wolfgang Jochle is a graduate of the University of Munich in Germany. He is a veterinarian and a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenology (the study of animal reproduction). In fact, he founded, in 1974, the first international journal devoted entirely to domestic animal reproduction, called *Theriogenology*. Wolfgang is an honorary professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany, and taught clinical endocrinology of reproduction there from 1980 to 1995. He also held a contract professorship for a couple of years at the University of Milan in Italy.

I first met Wolfgang at the 2002 ACC&D meeting in Georgia, where he was enthusiastically helping to make the meeting successful, by both making sure all the right people were there, and the right science was highlighted, but also by lending his many years of experience in research and product development to us so that we could understand how to move toward our goal of producing non-surgical contraceptives most effectively. What I didn't know at the time was that Wolfgang developed, in 1963, a contraceptive pill for pets, which was on the European market for many years, and I

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would grow to learn a great deal more about his fascinating career, a fraction of which I would like to share with you today.

We are lucky to have him. He was fighting in the second world war at the early age of 15, and barely escaped a prisoner-of-war camp, avoiding starvation by eating the oats rationed to the cavalry horses he was forced to care for. From these early hardships, he managed to build an amazing life of scholarship, friendship and achievement.

It is not an exaggeration to say that virtually everyone who works in animal contraception knows Dr. Jochle. He has published and spoken in this field for decades, making important contributions in a variety of areas. For example, he served on the editorial boards of *Reproduction in Domestic Animals* and *Animal Reproductive Science*, both important journals in veterinary reproduction. He has published extensively – over 300 articles in professional and peer-reviewed journals, and is the author of the book *Control of Reproductive Functions in Domestic Animals*. He is a member of over 20 scientific and professional associations in the U.S., Europe and Latin America, including, for example, the International Embryo Transfer Society, the Society of Endocrinology, the Society for the Study of Reproduction, and the Society for the Study of Fertility.

Generally someone with these academic and scientific credentials can be said to have had a full career, but this is only one aspect of Wolfgang's work. In addition to his academic achievements, Wolfgang has had a phenomenal impact on animal reproductive control by working to develop products. As director of veterinary research and then vice president of the international veterinary section of Syntex, Wolfgang and his wife, Maria, lived in Mexico and Palo Alto, California, and helped develop nine FDA-approved drugs during this time. After Syntex, he took the daring step of starting a consulting company with Maria, and, over the last 20 years, has worked for many different companies resulting in the approval and marketing of many new products, including a novel prolactin inhibitor from Italy, sedatives and analgesics for horses and dogs from Finland, and an implant for the control of ovulation in mares from Australia. It is a rarity to have one individual be so successful in academia, the pharmaceutical industry, and as an independent consultant. This demonstrates Wolfgang's great abilities in science, management and business.

Being a naturally curious and observant scientist, and one with boundless enthusiasm and joy in his work, Wolfgang has served as a role model for what a scientist can be. He is a thinker, which is refreshing in a world of academic and corporate bureaucracy. Many years ago, Wolfgang and his amazing physician wife and partner, Maria, founded their own consulting company, which neatly avoided being mired down by too many rules, procedures and time-wasting tasks.

Their home in Denville always welcomed many visitors from around the world, as does their new home by the beach in New Jersey, full of museum-quality treasures from around the world. To visit there is a privilege and a reminder of how science and art appreciation can complement one another.

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And what of those personal qualities? Those of you who know Wolfgang love that twinkle in his eye as he tells you one of his entertaining stories. He is generous with his time and attention, and eager to tell you of his experience so that you may learn from it, as many of us have over the years. He believes in cooperation in an era when science has become too competitive. He is loyal to his friends, and they are passionately loyal to him. He is my model of vitality irrespective of age. His partnership of equals with his physician wife is a model for a good marriage. And on top of all that, he sends out the most bawdy and entertaining e-mail jokes to make us all chuckle.

So ... Wolfgang, I am honored to consider you a mentor and friend, to acknowledge your lifetime of important contributions to the understanding of reproduction, particularly in dogs and cats, and to present you with this Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs.