

**Erko Stackebrandt, PhD Microbiol.**

Former Director (1993-2009) of the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH, Braunschweig and retired full professor of the Technical University Braunschweig. Postdoc with Carl Woese at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign in 1978 and member of Karl Schleifer's research group at the Technical University, Munich from 1979-1983. Appointed head of the Departments of Microbiology at the University of Kiel (1994-1990) and at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (1990-1993). Trained microbiologist, involved in systematics, evolution and molecular phylogeny of Archaea and Bacteria. Main interests are in the development and application of novel molecular tools for the characterization and identification of prokaryotes. Involved in many research project funded by the German Science Foundation, Ministry for Science and Technology and the European Commission, working on pure cultures and microbial communities. Projects include work in German soil and peat, Mediterranean coastal waters, North Sea and Baltic Sea, Antarctic Lakes, Australian soil and artesian wells, formation of stromatolithes, as well as giant ants, holothurians, rumen of cows and the digestive tract of koalas. Participated in the description and taxonomic revision of more than 400 bacteria taxa (species, genera, families, orders and classes). Awarded a Heisenberg stipend (1982-1983) and his work has been awarded by the Academy of Science at Göttingen (corresponding member), Bergey's Trust (Bergey's Award, 1991; Bergey Medal 2009), the Technical University Munich, the Australian Society for Microbiology (International Travelling Lecturer Award, Australia, 1990) the American Society for Microbiology (Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology; USFCC/J. Roger Porter Award 2002 ) and the Hungarian Society for Microbiology (honorary member). Published more than 600 papers in refereed journals and written more than 80 book chapters. Editor and associate editor of several journals, including Archives of Microbiology, Current Microbiology, "The Prokaryotes", online version, and Encyclopaedia of Life.