

Obituary to the decease of Hans-Joachim Pflüger (1949 – 2022)

The NWG is mourning the loss of Hans-Joachim Pflüger, who died unexpectedly and far too early on January 25, 2022. Hans-Joachim Pflüger, Professor of Neurobiology and Functional Neuroanatomy at the Free University of Berlin, was one of the 15 founding members of the German Neuroscience Society (NWG). Since then, he has always remained closely related to the NWG and supported the society as treasurer (1995 - 2003), as auditor (2007 - 2013), as vice president (2013 - 2015) and as president (2015 - 2017). In addition, he was active on the board and in committees of international neuroscience societies, such as FENS and IBRO.

His research interest focused on the neuronal control of movements, in particular on the role of neuromodulators in motor control and how neuromodulatory neurons can modulate signal processing in a task-specific manner. Hans-Joachim Pflüger investigated this in a comparative neurobiological approach, primarily on insects, such as locusts, stick insects, tobacco hawk moths and the fruit fly. In addition to behavioral and electrophysiological studies, he was particularly interested in the relationships between the structure and function of single neurons and carried out anatomical analyses of entire nervous systems, including their spatial reconstructions.

In addition to his research, Hans-Joachim Pflüger was intensively involved in teaching, not only after retiring at "his" Free University as a lecturer in biology, but also as organizer or faculty member of many international summer and winter schools, and in funding agencies, e.g. as an ombudsman for the German Academic Scholarship Foundation.

As a passionate ornithologist and marine biologist, he dealt intensively with questions of nature protection, and he was also interested in the history and the ethics of science. Hans-Joachim Pflüger was an excellent, extremely versatile scientist, an inspiring, competent teacher and above all a wonderful person who significantly shaped the NWG with his energy and radiant mind.

He has always supported the NWG and we owe him a great debt of gratitude. We will honour his memory.