

Press Release

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Karger Anniversary "Festschrift" on 125 Years of Service to Medical Science

Basel, Switzerland – For the last 125 years, Karger Publishers has been dedicated to serving the information needs of the scientific community with publications of high-quality content, covering all fields of medical science. The Festschrift "Karger – Connecting the World of Biomedical Science" tells the story of the Swiss-based family-run company and dwells upon the challenges of our time such as the digital transformation.

"Karger was early in adopting computer technology and applying it to all facets of the publishing enterprise", writes Harold Schmeck Jr., former science editor for the *New York Times* and the author of the first part of the Festschrift "Karger – Connecting the World of Biomedical Science". It is published on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the publishing company in 2015, a book containing over 200 richly illustrated pages. Schmeck's profoundly researched and lively report appeared already in 1990, when Karger Publishers turned 100 years old. It is still very much up-to-date.

The second part of the Festschrift, written by the historian Mechthild Hempe from Cologne in Germany on the basis of interviews and documents, reflects the years 1990 until today in the context of the manifold challenges to the publishing business and knowledge management, such as digitalization and Open Access.

"To keep up with the times"

The Festschrift appeared just in time for the 125th celebration of Karger Publishers when 230 Karger employees from all over the world met in Basel, Switzerland, on 26 June. Gabriella Karger, who leads the family-run company and also the enterprise S. Karger AG in the fourth generation, says: "My birthday wish for Karger Publishers is that we may continue to keep up with the times. Our main goal remains to serve science."

From the beginnings to the present

On April 1, 1890, Samuel Karger (1863–1935) founded Karger Publishers in Berlin with the goal of publishing literature with a focus on practical medicine. The first publication was a manual on obstetrics. In 1937, in the face of mounting political pressure from the National Socialists, his son Heinz Karger (1895–1959) moved his family and company to Basel, Switzerland.

Thomas Karger (born 1930) headed the company between 1959 and 1999. He was successful in expanding and internationalizing the publishing company and also added two further business units: the Karger Libri International Subscription Agency (since 1960) and the Bookstore Karger Libri (since 1967), both located in Basel as well. These three business units together make up S. Karger AG.

Steven Karger (1959–2008) was CEO of the publishing company for seven years until his untimely death in 2008. Today, Gabriella Karger (born 1964) is leading the publishing company and S. Karger AG. Thomas Karger is chairman of the supervisory board.

Karger Publishers

Karger Medical and Scientific Publishers is dedicated to serving the information needs of the scientific community with publications of high-quality content, covering all fields of medical science. The Swiss-based independent publishing company is family-run in the fourth generation.

www.karger.com/festschrift

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