



## **Friedrich Hartmut Dost**

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When clinical pharmacologists or collaborators of a drug authority would be asked to indicate the discipline which influenced most during the last two decades the basic philosophy and the daily practical work in their fields of activity most of them would answer without hesitation: 'Pharmacokinetics and its daughter Biopharmaceutics'. Most basic fields of medicine developed during many years until they were eventually accepted as new medical disciplines in their own right. In contrast, apart from a few preceding papers on the subject one can say that pharmacokinetics was born in 1953 as a full-grown systematic discipline, because in that year appeared an astonishing monograph entitled 'Der Blutspiegel' which contained practically all the elements of modern pharmacokinetics.

Still more astonishing is the fact that this book was not written by a team of mathematicians and pharmacologists but by one single man, FRIEDRICH HARTMUT DOST, at this time Full Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Pediatric Clinic at the University of Giessen, Federal Republic of Germany. To most pharmacokineticists it appears almost unbelievable that the man who is recognized throughout the world as the father of the highly sophisticated bio-mathematical discipline was a 'non-professional', an intellectual self-made man who always saw and still sees himself primarily as a physician. This may explain why DOST is one of Dollery's pharmacokineticists who consider his discipline a servant rather than a master of human therapeutics, a fact which is borne out clearly by many of Dost's numerous publications.

F. H. DOST was born July 11, 1910. He began his academic career in 1940 at the Pediatric University Clinic in Leipzig. In 1951 he was appointed Director of the Pediatric University Clinic at the Charité, East Berlin. Since 1953 Professor DOST is Head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Giessen, Federal Republic of Germany. In the fall of 1975 he retired as Director of this institution. During recent years he was predominantly working out the different aspects of the fundamental law which bears his name, Dost's 'Law of the Corresponding Areas'. However, the most outstanding work of these years is undoubtedly the book 'Grundlagen der Pharmakokinetik' (1968), the completely revised 2nd edition of his monograph which is still the most comprehensive text in the field of theoretical and clinical pharmacokinetics.

The editors of 'Chemotherapy' sincerely wish Professor DOST who celebrated recently his 65th birthday many more years of creative work.