
About the Author

Petro E. Petrides was born in Berlin (Germany), his family originates from Greeks living in Kappadokia (Turkey). After medical studies at the Universities in Freiburg and Munich (Germany) he graduated in 1975 and received his Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1976 (work on the secretion of insulin from the pancreas).

After spending time at various Munich Hospitals he moved to California in 1978 where he worked for two years at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla (Dr. Roger Guillemin) and for another four years at Stanford Medical School in Neurobiology (Dr. Eric Shooter). His focus at that time was on the emerging role of polypeptide growth factors (such as epidermal growth factor) in normal and malignant growth.

In 1984 he returned to Munich and continued his training in Hematology and Oncology at the Ludwig Maximilians University Hospital where he became a senior faculty member. In 1998 he was appointed Head of the Outpatient Oncology Clinic at Charite University Hospital in Berlin. Two years later he resigned from this post in order to return to Munich to set up the Hematology/Oncology Center and to teach at Munich University.

Over the years he has trained 12 doctoral students (M.D., Ph.D.): 3 of them are professors at German Universities, the others are in leading positions at various hospitals, in industry or the European patent office.

His research interests in topics such as breast and renal cancer, Gaucher disease, iron metabolism, myeloperoxidase deficiency, matrix metalloproteinases or Whipple disease reflect his broad interest in various aspects of hematology as well as oncology.

In the late 80s he became increasingly interested in MPNs and was among the first in Europe to systematically explore the therapeutic potential of anagrelide. Together with Dr. Rudolf Widmann of AOP he inaugurated the ANAHYDRET-trial (comparing anagrelide and hydroxyurea) and was involved in the pharmacological analysis of various anagrelide formulations. In Munich he runs a large MPN referral center with more than 400 patients seen over the last 20 years.

In 2000 he organized together with Dr. Heike Pahl the first international conference on MPNs bringing together more than 40 experts in the field at Lake Chiemsee in Upper Bavaria (www.innova-med.de).

Apart from these activities he also takes care of patients with acute porphyrias. His center now has treated more than 80 patients with these extremely rare diseases.

Moreover, he published a textbook of biochemistry and pathobiochemistry with Dr. Georg Löffler in 1975 which has become a bestseller. Its 10th edition is currently in preparation (Springer Publ.).

In recent years he spends some of his time in Lycia (Turkey) where he works among other things on the history of Greeks in Asia Minor and tries to make a good olive oil with his wife Maria Beykirch who is a medical doctor and successful painter as well.

