



# Summer School

Virtual Edition | 2023

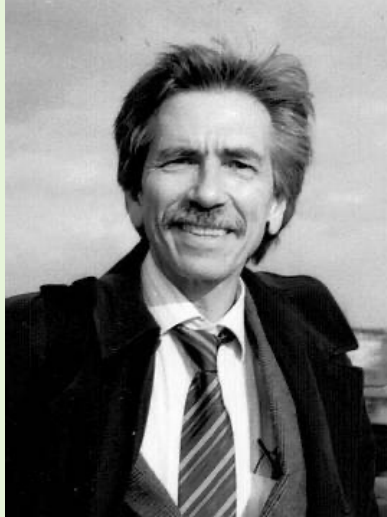
*Peter M. Schneider*  
*A Tribute*





This book is dedicated to the memory of our colleague and friend

## ***Peter Matthias Schneider***



(1955-2022)

Peter M. Schneider sadly passed away in September 2022.

During the 2023 virtual edition of the ISFG Summer School, an **online tribute session** took place to honour him, his work, his unquestionably important contribution to the ISFG and to all who surrounded him with his wisdom, insight, willingness, kindness and humanity.

Besides many of his accomplishments, Peter was one of the main drive forces in the ISFG for education and training. He was the **heart and mind** behind the idea of the **ISFG Summer School**.

On August 28th, 2023, we initiated the 2023 edition of the ISFG Summer School with this online session. Many of Peter's colleagues, friends and family were able to join us and celebrate his life and legacy.

During this time, a **short video** was shown which can be viewed through this link [t.ly/mMedn](https://t.ly/mMedn)

All the tribute messages received during this period and in the tribute session can be found in the following pages.

This book aims to express our deepest respect, admiration, and appreciation for Peter.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**Thank you, Peter.**

Dear Peter! We are preparing this Virtual Summer School Edition 2023 with great motivation and joy!  
The spirit lives on but we have to work harder to keep up the standard we aim to offer.  
The new board members have made us stronger and more effective.  
We are getting younger, meeting more often, organizing ourselves better.  
Always with the aim of promoting a strong society. You would love to work in this current ISFG Board!

*Walther Parson, Innsbruck, Austria, 25.04.2023*

I've always admired Peter for his drive and energy. He managed to convey his boundless enthusiasm to all of us, and encouraged us to initiate new projects.

I've benefited so much from his help and generosity! Without a doubt, the development of forensic genetics would not have been so spectacular without him.

I also admire his great humanity, kindness and determination to succeed.

I'm grateful to Peter for having taught me many important things, not only related to science but also about facing challenges in life. I will remember him, always.

*Lourdes Prieto, Madrid, Spain, 15.05.2023*

Sometimes we are lucky enough to meet very special people. I will always remember Peter as a great communicator with a kind word and smile. It was a privilege to have met him. Thank you!

*Cintia Alves, Porto, Portugal, 15.05.2023*

Dear Peter, you are greatly missed. Thank you for being such a wonderful and inspiring role model to so many of us! For unconditionally sharing your love for science, your insights in life and for always being so kind and approachable. It is rare to meet scientists with your energy, motivation, generosity and leadership! I will always cherish my memories with you.

*Athina Vidaki, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 12.06.2023*

Peter Schneider was a dear friend, colleague, teacher and mentor. Aside from the loss that his family and close friends have suffered, there will be a void within the ISFG community that will be felt by all of those who loved and respected him - as well as all of those whose lives he has touched.

While the notion of his absence seems so surreal, his presence will be felt in our hearts.

He will always be remembered for the example set by his character, his service and commitment to this organization, and all that he stood for.

*Markus Rothschild, Köln Cologne, Germany, 21.08.2023*

I am grateful to Peter for leaving a legacy that benefits me and many of my forensic genetics colleagues. I had the pleasure of meeting him a few times and he was always generous with his time. Thank you, Peter!

*Dennis McNevin, Sydney, Australia, 22.08.2023*

The entire GeFI and I are grateful to Peter for all he taught us with profound knowledge, wisdom, humanity and humility.

Peter was not only a great teacher but also a very special friend.

I am sure his radiant presence will be felt during this meeting.

*Paolo Fattorini, Trieste, Italy, 22.08.2023*

Peter, I remember you to always be very welcoming and easy to talk with.

Thank you for believing in my work and for inviting me to Cologne.

I will never forget you and the impact you had on me.

*Øyvind Bleka, Oslo, Norway, 24.08.2023*

Dearest Peter,

During seven years I had the enormous privilege to work by your side!

During this time you were a mentor, a colleague and happily to say, a friend!

Thank you for all you gave me and our forensic DNA team in Cologne as scientist and the daily inspiration while working together. I will truly miss you!

*Iva Gomes, Porto, Portugal, 24.08.2023*

Dear Prof. Schneider,

I still can't believe you left us. You always made me start the day with new information and warm messages.

I used to wait for your posts. Thanks to you, I have grown and learned more.

Your encouragement has made me more confident and motivated me to do better.

I will do my best to pass on everything I received from you to the next generation. I will miss you forever.

*Hwan Young Lee, Seoul, South Korea, 28.08.2023*

I will forever hold memories of Peter as an incredibly kind person with a great heart, and with a fantastic drive and positive energy. His ability to uplift and inspire those in his presence were truly extraordinary.

Dearest Peter, it was an absolute honor and pleasure to have crossed paths with you on numerous occasions - at various conferences, in courses, at NFI, and in Cologne.

I would have loved to spend time on the ISFG board with you. We are now at the start of the ISFG Summer School.

Fueled by your positive energy, we are dedicated to ensuring its resounding success.

Your contribution to the field of forensics are immeasurable, and for that, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude. Thank you!

*Corina Benschop, The Hague, The Netherlands, 28.08.2023*

Thanks for everything,  
Sincerely

*Tim Senge, Eberswalde, Germany, 28.08.2023*

It was always a pleasure to welcome Peter on his regular visits to Spain.

Not only was his energy and enthusiasm infectious and motivating, but there was always time for good food, wine and strolls together at the end of the day - and of course, this helped us to be very productive !

His approach to fostering forensic research, engaging with early-career scientists and to life in general, is one I have tried to follow. Peter, you are sadly missed in our lives, but you were a great example of how to grab life's riches with both hands and enjoy them to the full.

*Christopher Phillips, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 28.08.2023*

You always seemed like an extremely kind person to me. Unfortunately we haven't known each other for more than a few years, still I have good memories of moments that we shared.

The first that comes to mind is exploring the city of Seoul together with Jan, Theresa, and Athina.

Our paths also crossed in the context of the Visage project, where you kindly considered me to help training the trainers. You always came across like a very strong-willed person, you have been an inspiration to many, you can rest assured that your will shall be carried on by the next generations.

Thank you for shaping this field that we all love.

*Arwin Ralf, The Netherlands, 28.08.2023*

I will always remember Peter as a great scientist, but also as a gentle and kind person!

Always a pleasure to meet him at conferences.

*Solveig Jacobsen, Norway, 28.08.2023*

Peter was the kindest person and always so supportive! If the world had more people like him, there would be less issues. He will be deeply missed by anyone who had the chance to cross his path...

I am so happy I had the chance to work in your team when still in Legal Medicine in Mainz, and also keeping contact later on. Rest in peace, Peter!

*Anke Kruger, Germany, 28.08.2023*

Dear Peter, the picture of you spontaneously climbing the mountain on a rainy day with such passion, curiosity and in good mood while visiting us in the north will stay forever in my mind.

Thank you for taking us under your wings. Rest in Peace, dear Peter.

*Kirstin Janssen, Norway, 28.08.2023*

Thank you for everything. We love you.

*Agnes, Anna & Eva, 28.08.2023*

Peter always appeared to me as a genuinely kind person with a true ability to connect with other people.

I am honoured to have worked with him on the EuroForGen project where he was an inspiring leader and contributed with lots of positive energy. Peter, you were a force in the forensic genetics field and will be greatly missed.

*Guro Dørum, Zürich, Switzerland, 28.08.2023*

Peter was a great teacher for all of us.

His kindness and enthusiasm will always be etched in my memory.

*Chiara Turchi, Italy, 28.08.2023*

Peter was an excellent scientist, a great mentor and a very kind person!

He supported us in Switzerland significantly in the process of the implementation of the law on phenotyping.

I remember many beautiful conversations and experiences with him. Peter still is an ideal and a guide to me!

*Cordula Haas, Zürich, Switzerland, 28.08.2023*

Peter was a great scientist who made significant contributions to the world. To me, he was not only a great professor and mentor who helped me a lot with my research, but also my friend who showed me kindness and warmth. I sincerely thank him, his family, and everyone in the institute of legal medicine in Cologne for their love and support during my time in Germany. Peter's warmth will always remain in my heart.

*Shengqiu Qu, China, 28.08.2023*

Dear ISFG, Dear friends of Peter Schneider, Dear Schneider family.

On behalf of all our colleagues from Peter's last place of work at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Cologne, we would like to thank for the fact that we spent so much time together with Peter.

He was always a very good advisor in professional matters and naturally overcame the small and large problems and hurdles of everyday life together with us.

His gift for achieving goals with prudence and efficiency was very special.

He was a very good friend and guide to many of us on our professional paths.

He will always be with us in one way or another.

Peter, you will remain unforgotten.

*Team Köln and Colleagues, Germany, 28.08.2023*

Thank you Peter for your teachings and your kindness. Have a good trip wherever you are.

*Susana, Spain, 28.08.2023*

I was a young PhD student when I first talked to Peter and I remember being nervous to meet the person behind the big name I saw in so many articles. Peter was so down-to-earth, friendly and welcoming, sharing his thoughts on the work and looking for common angles on our research.

In all our encounters through the years, Peter always had encouraging and supporting words.

His openness and collaborative mindset is something that I take with me, and hope to mirror.

*Vania Pereira, Copenhagen, Denmark, 29.08.2023*

Peter Schneider: a mentor, a role model, but above all, a friend.

I've always admired his will to support young scientists, his generosity, and that subtle humour that still puts a smile on my face. He was a people's person and enjoyed a good gathering.

If you stayed long enough you might even have had the honour of hearing about his wild adventures or the joys of his beautiful family.

Peter, it won't be the same without you but I hope you know your memory lives on.

*Elaine Cheung, Australia, 04.09.2023*

Siempre en mi memoria Peter Schneider

Hace unos días recibí con una gran tristeza una noticia, que un hombre generoso y sabio nos había dejado, Peter Schneider. Los que le conocimos, sabemos lo que aportaba a la comunidad científica y de amigos, aunque a veces no fuéramos totalmente conscientes de ello. Le conocí a través de Ángel Carracedo, su amigo, su compañero y cómplice científico y, desde entonces nunca dejé de aprender de él ni de sorprenderme por su generosidad y por su interés en temas sociales.

Despertó mi curiosidad sobre situaciones del campo de la genética, y de la forense en concreto, más allá de lo que la rutina diaria me ofrece y que no había pensado hasta el momento en que recibía sus aportaciones en la página web de EuroforGen, ese gran medio aprendizaje y de comunicación con todos.

Sus sugerencias me provocaban siempre una gran necesidad: seguir aprendiendo, ver con otra mirada las situaciones rutinarias de mi trabajo en el campo forense, al que tanto aportó.

Su generosidad, su curiosidad y sobre todo su valentía ante la vida me deslumbró.

Siempre estarás entre nosotros Peter, tan solo muere lo que se olvida, y tú eres inolvidable.

*Mercedes Aler Gay, Valencia, Spain, 09.09.2023*



**International Society for Forensic Genetics**

September 2023