

Obituary of Professor Dr. Rüdiger Mews

Professor Dr. Rüdiger Mews, University of Bremen, passed away at the family home in Fischerhude on April 4, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Hanny (Neina); two daughters, Ina and Imke; their respective husbands, Dirk van Loh and Michal Metz; and five grandchildren, Jelte, Jannes and Wike van Loh, and Lina and Frerik Metz.

Professor Mews was born on October 2, 1942 in Stolp in Pommern (then Poland) and came to Ostfriesland after the war where he graduated from high school in Norden in 1962. Thereafter, he studied chemistry in Göttingen and obtained his doctorate in 1970 with Professor Oskar Glemser on research related to sulfur-nitrogen-fluorine compounds. He subsequently worked for one year as a postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Neil Bartlett at the University of California, Berkeley and returned to Göttingen for his habilitation which he completed in 1976. In 1985, he received the call for a C4-position in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Bremen.

Professor Mews' life-long passion and the major topic of his research was synthetic and structural sulfur-nitrogen-fluorine chemistry. He also made important contributions to other areas of inorganic chemistry including silicon chemistry and coordination chemistry. Although his research was academic in nature, his work also impacted the development of several key areas that are of relevance to industry. Most notably, Professor Mews' work significantly contributed to the development of deoxofluorination chemistry by providing the foundation for the syntheses, structural characterization and reactivity studies of compounds such as DAST, which has been used on a commercial scale to prepare numerous important pharmaceutical and medicinal compounds. His pioneering work related to the HgF_2 -catalyzed addition of reactive R-Cl compounds to NSF_3 provided access to the fields of SF_5 and interhalogen sulfur-nitrogen compounds.

Prof. Mews' always had Ph.D. students and postdocs who admired him as an excellent scientist and as a kindly human being who maintained a strong "esprit de corps" in his research group as evident from social events held in his laboratory and elsewhere. He will also be remembered by students who had their experimental lecture course from him in the first semester. Prof. Mews was a regular attendee at national, European and international fluorine chemistry conferences. Together with Prof. Dr. Gerd Röschenthaler (currently Jacob's University), he organized the 18th International

Symposium on Fluorine Chemistry in Bremen in 2006. Among his diverse international cooperations, which deserves special mention, is that with Professor Dr. Boris Žemva (Institut Jožef Stefan, Ljubljana, Slovenia) who, as a Senior Humboldt Research Prize winner, spent a research leave with Professor Mews in Bremen.

*Prof. Dr. Boris Žemva (Institut Jožef Stefan, Ljubljana, Slovenia) and
Prof. Dr. Gary J. Schrobilgen (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada)*