

# Award for a great life's work

## The DGFF (Lipid League) honours Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h. c. Dietrich Seidel

In March 2021, Prof Dietrich Seidel was once again honoured for his achievements in the fight against lipid metabolism disorders. Based on his research, B. Braun developed a successful therapeutic procedure more than 30 years ago in the form of H.E.L.P. apheresis.



Lipometabolic disorders are among the relevant risk factors for cardiovascular disease and arteriosclerosis. The fact that they have become increasingly treatable over the years is thanks in part to him:

The physician Prof Dr med Dr h.c. Dietrich Seidel has spent his long scientific career conducting intensive research in this specialised field and developing appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. He has now been honoured for his outstanding research achievements by the German Society for Combating Lipid Metabolic Disorders and their Consequential Diseases (DGFF) (Lipid League) for his life's work.

"We are delighted that the Lipid League has honoured Prof. Seidel for his life's work in lipidology," says Alexander Rohde, Senior Marketing Manager Acute Dialysis and Apheresis at B. Braun. "There is a long-standing connection between B. Braun and Prof Seidel, as the H.E.L.P. therapy we developed is based on his research." The abbreviation stands for "heparin-induced extracorporeal LDL precipitation" and describes a procedure for the treatment of lipometabolic disorders that cannot be adequately treated by conventional means. The

therapy is used for patients with high LDL and Lp(a) cholesterol levels, for example, and consists of regular lipoprotein apheresis - also known as "blood washing". With the help of H.E.L.P. apheresis, the blood is cleansed of pathogenic cholesterol and other arteriosclerosis-promoting factors such as fibrinogen or the acute-phase protein CRP. B. Braun established this successful procedure on the market around 35 years ago.

Dr Christoph Sass, head of the via medis medical centre in Braunschweig, knows how important this therapy is. In particular, the pathological increase in the blood fat lipoprotein (a) - Lp(a) for short - is still too rarely recognised and treated: "Many of those affected develop vascular disease at an early age and in a severe form. Some patients have the heart of an 80-year-old at the age of 40," he explains. "In addition to strokes, heart and peripheral vascular disease, miscarriages and infertility are also associated with Lp(a)." Drug treatment of the elevated Lp(a) level is not yet possible. This makes artificial blood purification all the more important.

Another of Prof Seidel's achievements is the identification of risk factors for atherosclerosis as part of the Göttingen Risk, Incidence and Prevalence Study (GRIPS): together with colleagues, he researched the development of a diagnostic strategy for the early detection and preventive treatment of people with risk factors in the area of the coronary arteries.

Prof Seidel researched and taught at Heidelberg University Hospital, Göttingen University Hospital and the Department of Clinical Chemistry at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, among others. He is only the second scientist to receive the DGFF (Lipid League) Medal of Honour for his clinical research and his life's work; according to the specialist medical society, this will be awarded every two years in future.

Prof Seidel has already received numerous awards for his services to research into fat metabolism, including the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany