

# In Memoriam to Two Atmospheric Scientists

## J. Elkins NOAA/ESRL



F. Sherwood Rowland, left, accepting the Nobel Prize in 1995 for work on relating CFCs to stratospheric ozone depletion from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. He died this past Saturday March 10. He was 84 years old and died from complications from Parkinson's disease.



Dr. Cornelius Schiller

July 29, 1961 – March 3, 2012

Cornelius Schiller, an active member of the international atmospheric research community, passed away on March 3, 2012 in Neuss, Germany after a battle with cancer. He died peacefully, but much too early and with many unfinished plans amidst his family whom he held dear. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his children, Katharina, Andreas, Christoph, and his father Klaus.

Cornelius studied physics at University of Bonn. Early on he became interested in the physics and chemistry of the atmosphere. He joined the atmospheric chemistry department of the Jülich Research Centre in 1986, where he started to develop spectroscopic methods for the observation of the total column of stratospheric trace gases. He led the water vapour group in the stratospheric research program for the past 20 years.

With the development of FISH, the "Fast In situ Stratospheric Hygrometer", in the 1990s, he and colleagues at Jülich Research Centre started a new era of the measurement of water vapour under the adverse conditions of the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere. Accurate H<sub>2</sub>O measurements under such conditions are exceedingly difficult, but Cornelius together with a few colleagues around him succeeded in pushing the boundaries of science and technology by taking measurements with this instrument on multiple platforms and from tropics to high latitudes. FISH is considered to be one of the most accurate hygrometers worldwide.

Although at times his work has necessarily been quite technical, his motivation remained always very clear: striving for scientific truth and serving a better understanding of Earth's atmosphere and climate. He was inspired by environmental protection and by the quest to safeguard the creation for future generations. Amongst his peers he was regarded highly, because of his always friendly and encouraging attitude. He led large international measurement campaigns, and we all followed him because of his strong scientific integrity and his kind and genial nature.

Cornelius left us behind all too early. He was still full of plans, for example concerning his initiative for improved water vapour measurements. We will not forget him, but continue to work in his spirit on the questions that he raised. We grieve for one of our great scientists, an altruistic colleague and truly good friend!

Tom Peter and Karen Rosenlof

Donations (instead of flowers) for: Health Station of Bishop Peter Marzinkowski. Account Owner: Kath. Kirchengemeinde Christ König Gesundheitsstation. Bank Account Number: 80 159 841. Bank: Sparkasse Neuss. BLZ: 305 500 00. IBAN: DE64 3055 0000 0093 3026 10. BIC: WELADEDNXXX (Neuss). Code Word: Dr. Cornelius Schiller.