

Nachruf für Herrn Peter Pharow

This obituary is dedicated to acknowledging and honoring our unforgettable friend and colleague Peter Pharow, Co-Chair of the EFMI WG Cards and its successor EFMI WG Personal Portable Devices (PPD), active member of different other EFMI WGs, and heavily engaged in the pHealth community and its EFMI-supported pHealth conference series, who suddenly and unexpectedly passed away on 4 July 2020. Peter Pharow was an extraordinary personality, who decisively influenced the development and improvement of the health informatics and pHealth domains.

Starting with an educational background in Cybernetics and Automation received at the Technical University Ilmenau and early employments in companies with the focus on safety and security, Peter joined the healthcare arena when entering my department Medical Informatics at the Medical Faculty of the Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg in 1995. Here, he was engaged in several projects within the European Commissions' 5th and 6th Framework Programs, focusing on mechanisms, technologies and infrastructures for security in health information systems, such as DIABCARD or TrustHealth, confronting him among others with cards as security tokens, but also with privacy concerns. This engagement has strongly benefited from Peter's technical competence, but also from his extraordinary organizational and communications talents, making him indispensable when administering projects or organizing scientific and other events.

Having always been a trustworthy, competent and structured personality and reliable friend, I was happy about Peter's decision to join me when moving from Magdeburg to the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits in Erlangen, where I launched the Health Telematics Group, and thereafter to the Medical Faculty of the University of Regensburg, where I launched the German National eHealth Competence Center (eHCC). In all those institutions, Peter's role was far more than my "right hand". Many of the achievements wouldn't be possible without his invaluable support. When the eHCC came to an end with my retirement, he moved to the Fraunhofer-Institute for Digital Media Technology (IDMT) in Ilmenau. As before, also here he was very successful in the acquisition of national and international projects, first continuing the engagement in the health area, followed by a move to digital media in education and training including adaptive systems, machine learning, etc. All this engagement resulted in a big number of acknowledged papers and a series of edited books.

The projects work was always accompanied by engagements in national and international bodies such as our scientific associations GMDS (national), EFMI (international) or the German Standards Institute DIN, but also the German Association for Security and Privacy (GDD), where he brought me in. After engaging as member in the Security WGs of GMDS (later also acting as my Co-chair), EFMI and IMIA, he launched together with other international experts and co-chaired the EFMI Cards WG, which has later turned to the EFMI WG Personal Portable Devices (PPD). All those WGs have been Sponsors of the pHealth Conferences all time.

Peter's energy was amazing, lasting until a few days before he passed away. Peter was always a trustworthy, competent and structured personality and reliable friend. It has been indeed an honor to have been counted to his friends. The EFMI and the pHealth community will always commemorate Peter Pharow.

Bernd Blobel

Prof. Dr. habil. Bernd Blobel, FACMI, FACHI, FHL7, FEFMI, FIAHSI, University of Regensburg, Medical Faculty; Regensburg, Germany; Email: bernd.blobel@klinik.uni-regensburg.de

GMDS MAGAZIN 2020/2