“No wise man ever wish to be younger” (Jonathan Swift)

Günter Petzow

celebrated his 75th birthday on July 8, 2001

This issue of the *Zeitschrift für Metallkunde* is dedicated to Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. h.c. mult. Günter Petzow on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Günter Petzow is known to all materials scientists the world over. Throughout his career, first during his active years at the Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung and later after his retirement in 1994, he has maintained close ties to the German Society for Materials Science (DGM). He is well-known as Editor-in-Chief of the *Zeitschrift für Metallkunde* which he has been since 1977. Due to his tireless efforts the *Zeitschrift für Metallkunde* has gained in international recognition to the point where it has become one of the premier journals in materials science with a very high impact factor in the field.

Günter Petzow has received several prestigious honors of the DGM. In 1984 he was awarded the Heyn Medal acknowledging his scientific achievements. In 1997 he became a Honorary Member of our Society in recognition of his seminal contribution as a researcher and teacher in the area of materials science.

Most readers of the *Zeitschrift für Metallkunde* will be familiar with Günter Petzow's scientific career which has been closely connected to the University of Stuttgart and the Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung where he did his master thesis as well as his PhD thesis.

Günter Petzow was able to integrate constitutional research and metallography as a young group leader at the Institute for Special Materials at the Max-Planck-Institut in Stuttgart. His activities were widely recognized at the time. In 1965 he began to work in the area of powder metallurgy and became the head of the Institute's Powder Metallurgical Laboratory (PML) in 1968 where he worked until his retirement in 1994. He was a Scientific Member and Director at the Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung and served as Managing Director from 1989 to 1992. In recognition of his exceptional scientific contributions he received honorary professorships in Stuttgart, Berlin, Ann

Arbor, MI/USA, Shanghai and Shenyang/P. R. China as well as being elected into numerous prestigious academies and societies.

Günter Petzow's scientific achievements cover metallography, phase diagram studies, powder metallurgy and processing of advanced ceramics. His group made essential contributions with regard to the calculation of equilibrium with thermodynamic methods. In the area of metallography he introduced the term "continuous metallography" which includes the characterization of materials from simple optical microscopy to advanced transmission electron microscopy: "microscopy on all length scales". It is typical of Günter Petzow that he had already then the vision that the continuous study of the microstructure of materials would be a precondition for any advance in artificially structured materials.

The German Society for Materials Science is deeply indebted to Günter Petzow for his willingness to work for the Society in a scientific as well as policy-making capacity. His dedication and his continued support are gratefully acknowledged.

Under Günter Petzow's presidency the Society changed its name from Society for Metals to Society for Materials. This was a very difficult process which successfully opened up the Society to many new fields, thus revitalizing the Society. He was able to bring about this momentous change by getting people with opposing views together and mediating a solution.

We are very happy that in his 75th year Günter Petzow is still continuing to play an active role in the materials science community in Germany and in the world.

The editors of the *Zeitschrift für Metallkunde* and the publishing house Carl Hanser Verlag gratefully wish Günter Petzow the very best for his professional and personal future.

Manfred Rühle, Stuttgart
President of the DGM