

Helmut Ringsdorf

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Helmut Ringsdorf was born in Gießen/Germany in 1929. He grew up in the Rhine Valley, studied Chemistry, Politics and Geology at the Universities in Frankfurt, Darmstadt, and Freiburg. In 1955 he entered Hermann Staudingers Lab as his very last student. After his Ph.D. in Freiburg in 1958, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow with C.G. Overberger and Herman F. Mark at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (1960-1962). He taught Polymer Science and Organic Chemistry at the Universities Marburg (1962-1970) and Mainz (1971-1994). He still has the good fortune to be with young scientists as Adjunct Professor at the School of Pharmacy, University Cardiff/U.K. and at the Jilin University, Changchun/China. His awards include the H. Staudinger (Germany) as well as the H. Mark (Austria) Award, Polymer Science Award (USA). Honorary doctors from four Universities in four countries, the Friendship Award of the Chinese Government, member of Academies in Germany (Mainz, Düsseldorf), Russia (Moscow), and Italy (Catania).

Based on the concept of molecular engineering of functional polymers and molecular assemblies the research interests of the group in Mainz were centred around the attempt to bridge the gap between **Materials Science** and **Life Science** as summarized in the following figure.

Main research themes: Molecular architecture of functional liquid crystalline polymers, polymerization in oriented systems (micelles, multicompart ment micelles, liposomes, monolayers, multilayers), properties of functional supramolecular systems, attempts to mimic biomembrane processes (enzyme functions, protein docking) and polymer therapeutics, e.g. polymeric antitumor agents on a molecular and cellular level (see: <http://www.isihighlycited.com>).