

CeBiTec – Quarterly

Summer 2020



In memoriam, Stefan Weidner

On the 26th of April, we received the sad news that we had lost Stefan Weidner, Managing Director of the CeBiTec.

The Center for Biotechnology (CeBiTec) and Bielefeld University mourn the death of Dr. Stefan Weidner, Executive Secretary of the CeBiTec at Bielefeld University, who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 26th of April at the age of 53. Stefan Weidner had been Executive Secretary of the CeBiTec since 2004. "With his death, the CeBiTec not only lost a close colleague, but also a person who helped to establish the Centre for Biotechnology and who helped shaping its structures," said the Scientific Director Professor Dr. Olaf Kruse.

Dr. Stefan Weidner received his doctorate in 1996 in the field of Microbial Molecular Genetics at the Faculty of Biology at Bielefeld University under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Alfred Pühler. At the Department of Genetics he conducted research on plasmid-coded gene regions from the bacterium *Rhizobium leguminosarum*. During his time as a Post-Doc, he continued working on this research topic and in the following years he worked extensively on the symbiosis of *Rhizobium leguminosarum* and later on the decoding of the genome sequence of *Rhizobium meliloti*.

In 2001, Stefan Weidner took responsibility for the construction of the new Laboratory Building G for the Center for Biotechnology (CeBiTec) at Bielefeld University. In 2004 he was appointed as the Executive Secretary of the CeBiTec. Since then, Stefan Weidner has been responsible for a large number of activities related to CeBiTec. With his extraordinary expertise and communication skills, he developed his position into a key position of central importance.

On Sunday, 26th of April 2020, Stefan Weidner passed away suddenly and completely unexpected. This news fills all members of CeBiTec with great sadness. With Stefan, we are losing a special person, a colleague and friend who will be greatly missed by all of us.

Stefan Weidner had been married to his wife Kirsten since 1996. We mourn with her and the two children Merle and Marvin.

Upcoming Events

- ▶ further events are announced on the [CeBiTec web page](#)

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