

Dieter Perner
12 November 1934 – 31 May 2012

7 June 2012

Dear ICACGP and SPARC colleagues,

sadly Dieter Perner died recently.

After a long battle with illness, Dieter Perner, died on the 31st of May 2012. Dieter was educated in Berlin and a post doctoral scientist in Paris in the early post war period. He made many contributions over a long scientific career. He is most famous for inventing, supported by Ulrich Platt the Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy, DOAS, whilst at what is now the Research Centre Jülich. He joined the Max Planck Institute in 1982 to lead the optical spectroscopy Group with the Air Chemistry Department, directed by Paul Cruzen. I first met Dieter at the MPI and in 1984 over at coffee break, we decided that the DOAS technique should work from space. This was the beginning of a long scientific journey and Dieter became one of my closest collaborators and mentors during the subsequent years, being involved in the development of the MAP (Mapping of Atmospheric Pollution) concept, which was ignored in 1985 (perhaps fortunately by the ESA for flight on EUREKA), and then the development of the successful proposals, SCIAMACHY for POEM-1/Envisat, and SCIAMINI, later descoped to become GOME on ERS-2. He served on the GOME and SCIAMACHY Advisory Groups. Dieter led many scientific expeditions making atmospheric measurements of key trace gases in many unique places. He played an important role in the European and National Ozone research programmes in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dieter was a good man, an excellent scientist and dear friend. He is survived by his wife Regina, his children Iris, Hendrike and Norman and his grandchildren. The funeral Service for Dieter Perner will take place on the 8th June 2012 at the main Mainz cemetery, Germany

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