

**Professor Michael Pfothhauer;
Witten/Herdecke University, Germany
Physiology courses in Witten/Herdecke without animal experiments**

The Institute for Normal and Pathological Physiology was founded in Witten-Herdecke in 1984. From the beginning the physiology practical courses for medical and dental students were run without animal experiments. We are still convinced that it is not at all necessary to use such cruel methods for teaching. Often experiments like these cause errors in knowledge, for example, because the animal model is not correct for human medicine. There are plenty of other, better teaching and learning methods. So, for example, we use clinical examination techniques, computer models, videos (of human physiology and medicine, not of animal experiments), much literature, databases, and (harmless) experiments on and examination of our own organism. We also have courses in real clinical laboratories, for example, to do blood analyses or watch high-tech examination methods and to discuss what was seen in order to learn to know and understand human physiology. And we seem to be quite successful without cruel and harmful experiments on animals.