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### 1. Personal

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### 2. Professional Career

Study of biology and chemistry, University of Mainz  
 Research Assistant at the Institute for Physiological Chemistry, Mainz University  
 Assoc. Professor, Institute for Physiol. Chemistry, Mainz University

1977	Head of the Department "Applied Molecular Biology", Institute for Physiological Chemistry, University of Mainz
1977 and 1982	Research visitor at the Institute of Microbial Chemistry (Prof. Dr. H. Umezawa), Tokyo, Japan
1986 - 1991	Visiting professor at the National Cancer Research Institute (Prof. T. Sugimura; Dr. S. Nishimura; Dr. Y. Kuchino), Tokyo, Japan
1993 - 1999	Visiting professor (Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science), Graduate School of Medicine (Prof. H. Ushijima), University of Tokyo.

### 3. Professional Duties/Stipends/Awards

1972	Boehringer Award for Excellence in Pathophysiology Research
1977	Johann-Georg-Zimmermann Award for Excellence in Cancer Research
1980	Max-Bürger Award for Gerontology
1986	Institute Ruder Boškovic-Medal in Gold; Zagreb
1986	Kani-Medal of the Foundation for Promotion of Cancer Research; Tokyo
1993	Research Award of the University of Zagreb
1996	Research Award from "International Human Frontier Science Program"
1996	Award for Science and Research, Croatian Academy of Science
2002	Innovation Prize of the Federal State Rheinland-Pfalz
2005	Spiridion Brusina Medal from the Croatian Society of Geneticists
2007	Paul Scheuer Award in Marine Biotechnology
2011	Select Research Place in Germany (handed over by the German President)
2011	"Friendship Award" of China; the highest award given to foreign scientists.
2011-2016	Holder of an ERC Advanced Grant

since 1970 Editor or member of the Editorial Boards of a series of Journals and Book Series (e.g., Nucleic Acids Research; Progress in Molecular and Subcellular

Biology [Editor-in-Chief]; Mechanism of Ageing and Development [Editor-in-Chief]; Cellular and Molecular Biology [Co-Editor]; Biomedical Materials [Board member]

*Academies:*

1990 Member of the "Akademie gemeinnütziger Wissenschaften zu Erfurt" [Senat]  
1996 Member of the "Croatian Academy of Science and Arts"  
1998 Member of the "Belarus Medical Academy"  
2010 Distinguished Professor of the "Chinese Academy of Sciences"  
2010 Distinguished Professor of the "Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences"  
2011 Holder of the Advanced Investigator Grant from the European Research Council (ERC)

*Publications:* > 950 peer reviewed publications; Hirsch h-index: 59 (ISI Web of Science)

**4. Research Areas**

My research activities focus (1) on the understanding of deep metazoan phylogeny in order to "reconstruct" and define the genetic repertoire of the Urmetazoa (ancestry of Metazoa). (2) The second focus of my research activities, which has become a main topic of my group in the past ten years, is the study of template-directed biomineralization processes, in particular biosilicification in marine and freshwater demosponges. More recently I became particularly interested in the formation of the mineral skeletons of deep-sea glass sponges, but also in other mineralization processes (polymetallic nodules and ferromanganese crusts). For these studies we apply multidisciplinary approaches from inorganic chemistry to molecular biology and bioinformatics. (3) My research interests also comprise the development of novel applications of the enzymes/proteins involved in biosilica formation in various fields of nano(bio)technology and nano-biomedicine.

Since 2012 WEG M is coordinator of the EU Integrated Project BlueGenics.