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## **The German Research Ombudsman: An Instrument Dealing with Scientific Misconduct**

**11:00 am, Tuesday August 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**J. Heyrovsky Institute**

**Rudolf Brdička Lecture Hall**

**The biophysicist Prof. Heberle is one of four Ombudspersons independent of the ethical boards of Universities and Research Institutes in Germany. If a scientist witnesses a case of violating good scientific practice, he/she contacts the Ombudsperson who advises or coordinates further steps with the local ethical boards. Anonymity is guaranteed.**

In 1997, an enormous scandal of research fraud was discovered in Germany when Herrmann and Brach, both highly renowned scientists in cancer research, had apparently forged and invented research results. As an immediate consequence, the German Research Council convened in 1997 and installed an Executive Committee to investigate this case of severe scientific misconduct. The results were published as recommendations for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice. This memorandum demands from each individual engaged in research absolute honesty and requires documentation and conservation of all original data for at least ten years.

To safeguard and supervise these rules, the memorandum recommended the installment of a national body of elected scientists: the *German Research Ombudsman* ([www.ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de](http://www.ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de)). As one of the members, he will report on the role of the panel and the rules of good scientific practice - discussions welcome!

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