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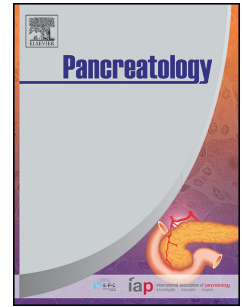
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The shaping, making and baking of a pancreatologist.

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Word count: 4904; abstract 116; references: 99

Abstract:

The European Pancreatic Club Lifetime Achievement award is a distinction awarded for research on the pancreas. It comes with the obligation to submit a review article to the society's journal, *Pancreatology*. Since the research topics of my group have recently been covered in reviews and book chapters I want to use this opportunity to appraise the stations of my clinical and research education, the projects that I pursued and abandoned, the lessons I have learned from them, and the women and men who influenced my training and development as a physician scientist. Some crossed my path, some become collaborators and friends, and some turned into role models and had a lasting impact on my life.

Education:

I grew up and went to school in Andernach, a small city in the German Rhineland that was founded in Roman times, has preserved its medieval ramparts, and is situated in the best white wine producing regions of Germany for Riesling grapes. I spent many school holidays working in my relatives' vineyards. My father was a judge and my mother a homemaker, who projected her unfulfilled wish of becoming a physician onto all three of her sons, because my two younger brothers and I all ended up in medicine. After 9 years of instructions in Latin and other areas of higher education (but very little English or sciences) I graduated in 1976 from

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