



IALM President (2000 - 2006)

Professor Walter Bär (Zürich)

Born at 7th of November 1946, Swiss citizen. He studied medicine at the University of Zürich in the years 1968 – 1974. Thereafter he was an medical resident in pathology, surgery and legal medicine from 1974 to 1979. His promotion in 1976 was based on his dissertation “Comparison of Histologic Typs of Primary Testicular Germ Cell Tumors with Their Metastases. Consequences for the WHO and the British Nomenclatures?” Bär worked as scientific assistant at the Institute of Forensic Genetics at the University of Copenhagen from November 1981 to February 1982. He became University Lecturer in Legal Medicine in 1988 with his Thesis: DNA-Polymorphismen: Ihre Bedeutung in der Forensik. DNA-Fingerprinting. In 1989 he was appointed Full Professor of Legal Medicine at the University of Zürich and Director of the Institute of Legal Medicine at the University of Zürich. He was a member of the Ethical Commission of the Medical Faculty of the University of Zürich from 1990 to 2005. Between 2000 and 2004 he was Vice-Dean Ressources and from 2004-2008 Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Zürich. His main research activities were in the methodological investigations of DNA polymorphisms in body fluids and tissue specimen and their forensic applications, hypothesis testing/ biostatistics in DNA profiling, blood alcohol, medical jurisprudence and ethics in medicine/end of life situations. In 2010 a Postmortem Imaging Center (CT/MRI/Surface Scanning) became operational. Bär was editor of the International Journal of Legal medicine and is member of the scientific Council of “Rechtsmedizin”. He is chairmen of the scientific Council of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for forensic imaging (Graz/Austria). Since 1997 he is member of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher LEOPOLDINA. Bär was president of the Swiss Society of Legal Medicine (1990-1994), President of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (1992-1995), Member of the Central Ethical Commission of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (1992-1996), Secretary of the European Council of Legal Medicine ECLM (1992-2006), Treasurer of the International Academy of Legal Medicine IALM (1994-2000) and President of the International Academy of Legal Medicine IALM from 2000 to 2006. Since 2006 he is a honorary member of the Hungarian Society of Forensic Medicine. 2010 Doctor honoris causa, Catholic University Leuven, Biomedical Sciences, Belgium. Since 2011 Bär is professor emeritus for Legal Medicine of the University of Zurich. In 2012 he became a member of the scientific committee of the International Academy of Legal Medicine IALM.