

# Colloquium in Honor of Hans Ulrich Burger on the Occasion of His Retirement at Roche

**Thu, Oct 16, 13:30-18:00**  
**Roche (large auditorium B71) & virtual**



Participation is free of charge. Please register via the following link [HERE](#).

## Location for in-person attendees:

Large Auditorium Building 71, Roche, Grenzacherstrasse 124, 4070 Basel

Non-Roche employees must register at the reception of [Roche Tower Building 1](#) (the skyscraper on the side of Grenzacherstrasse closer to the Rhine) between 13:00 and 13:15

Over his long career, Uli Burger has been a highly influential drug developer, president of statistical societies, initiator of important events, contributor to ICH guidelines, collaborator with academics and regulators, statistical methodologist, leader, mentor, and friend. While Uli Burger remains very engaged with statistical societies and activities, his retirement from Roche presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what he likes best: statistical methodology, drug development, and camaraderie. Please join us for this special event, featuring eminent speakers from academia, regulators, and pharma!

<b>13:15</b>	<b>Arrival at Roche for in-person attendees</b>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>13:35</b>	<b>On the use of surrogate endpoints in adaptive survival trials</b> Werner Brannath (University of Bremen)
<b>14:15</b>	<b>Decision making in clinical drug development</b> Markus Abt (Roche)
<b>14:55</b>	<b>Lightning talks &amp; videos</b>
<b>15:15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15:45</b>	<b>Significance, relevance, and a proportionate amount of evidence for decision making in drug licensing</b> Armin Koch (Medizinische Hochschule Hannover)
<b>16:25</b>	<b>From local chapters to global guidelines: A journey of collaborative progress</b> Frank Bretz (Novartis)
<b>17:05</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>
<b>17:10</b>	<b>Apéro</b>

**Organizing committee:** Marcel Wolbers, Kristina Weber, Dominik Heinzmann (Roche), Kaspar Rufibach (Merck KGaA), Marisa Bacchi (independent). **Contact for questions:** [marcel.wolbers@roche.com](mailto:marcel.wolbers@roche.com).

## Biosketch of Speakers

**Werner Brannath** is Professor of Applied Statistics and Biometry at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Bremen and Head of the Department of Biometry at the Competence Centre for Clinical Studies Bremen (KKSB) and member of the Board of Directors of the KKSB. He was serving as President of the German Region (IBS-DR) of the International Biometric Society (IBS) from 2019 to 2021 and is currently chairing the Region's Public Relations Working Group. He has also been active in the Austrian-Swiss Region (ROeS) serving as chair of the Vienna Biometrical Section (WBS) and founding chair of the working group on Adaptive Designs and Multiple Testing Procedures of the IBS-DR and ROeS. He has also been an Associate Editor for Biometrics and is currently an Associate Editor for the Biometrical Journal. He has been and still is a member of several independent data and safety monitoring boards for clinical trials, has been a member of an Ethics Committee in Vienna and is currently a deputy member of the Ethics Committee at the University of Bremen.

**Markus Abt** is a seasoned statistician and drug developer with over two decades of experience at Roche, holding various leadership roles in Biostatistics across different therapeutic areas. He has demonstrated expertise in leading statistical teams, fostering professional development, and contributing extensively to the advancement of drug development processes. He is also an accomplished academic with numerous publications and presentations, underscoring his impact in both the pharmaceutical industry and academia.

**Armin Koch** studied Mathematics and Chemistry at Heidelberg University, was a research assistant at the German Centre for the Research on Cancer (DKFZ), worked at the Institute of Medical Biometry at Heidelberg University as a research assistant, and joined the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) in Germany. Since 2008 he has been a Director of the Institute for Biostatistics at Hannover Medical School. He is a member of the Scientific Advice Working Party (SAWP) at the European Medicines Agency (EMA), has been a member of the ICH-E17 working group and is currently contributing to the development of ICH-E20 for the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH).

**Frank Bretz** is a Distinguished Quantitative Research Scientist at Novartis. He has a keen interest in advancing drug development practices and has contributed methodologically to several areas, including adaptive designs, dose finding, estimands, and multiple testing. Among his professional contributions, Frank is a past editor of Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 methodological articles in peer-reviewed journals and six books. Frank has been recognized with the Susanne-Dahms Medal from the German Region of the International Biometric Society and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.