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Born 1928. Studies in medicine, philosophy and social science at Zurich University, Ph.D. 1954, M.D. 1959. Specialisation in psychiatry and psychotherapy. Since 1970 founder and head of the department for social psychiatry at Psychiatric University Hospital of Zurich, with in- and outpatient specialised services. Undergraduate and postgraduate teaching at Zurich Medical School. Since 1977 professor of Social Psychiatry and co-director at Psychiatric University Hospital, retired 1995.

Since 1974 research projects in the fields of psychotherapy, psychiatry, drug dependence and health policy, especially drug policy. Co-editor of several scientific journals, co-founder of „European Addiction Research“. Editor of a comprehensive handbook on Addiction Medicine (Urban & Fischer Munich). Reviewer on grant proposals and research projects, for national and international organisations and authorities. Over 290 publications.

Expert on national and international committees. Member of the Expert Panel on Drugs of World Health Organisation. Founder and past president of Swiss Society of Social Psychiatry, past board member of the European Association on Substance Abuse Research EASAR. Missions for World Health Organisation to various countries; numerous contributions to WHO expert meetings and reports since 1974.

Founder and since 1995 President of the Addiction Research Institute, now Research Institute for Public Health and Addiction, a WHO Collaborating Centre, affiliated with Zurich University. Numerous research projects in epidemiology, prevention and treatment of substance dependence.