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A Note to my Friends and Colleagues at the German Cancer Research Center

Entering a New Phase of Life



Receiving the certificate of gratitude for faithful services from the Ministry of State Baden-Wuerttemberg, handed over by the rector of the University of Heidelberg, Professor Frauke Melchior, on September 24, 2025

Effective October 1, 2025, I will retire from my position as a Professor of Health Economics at the University of Heidelberg, after more than eight years having been granted leave of absence to serve as Head of the Division of Health Economics at the German Cancer Research Center (Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, DKFZ).

Depending on the perspective taken, there might be more or less imminent change than one would assume or anticipate. On the one hand, I will not put an end to my academic work, continuing to lead the OECI Task Force on “Socioeconomic Impact Research” on behalf of the DKFZ, supervising PhD students with the university, and giving occasional lectures in university courses. I will do so, however, in an emeritus role from now on.

On the other hand, changes will include that, from now on, the primary home of my academic and consulting work will be once again with the not-for-profit Institute for Innovation & Valuation in Health Care (www.innoval-hc.com). And on the more private side, I plan to use my regained freedom for moving house from Germany to the Tyrolean dolomites, the land in the mountains that my ancestors had to leave as poverty refugees in the 18th century.

Foremost of all, I would like to take the opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the many colleagues and coworkers – some of them became friends over the years – I had the pleasure to cooperate with and to learn from. Let’s continue the journey – I am very much looking forward to maintaining old friendships and to building new ones!