

**Laudation Professor Walter Klepetko**  
**Semmelweis University Doctor Honoris Causa Award Ceremony**  
**11 November 2016**

Professor Walter Klepetko graduated at the Vienna Medical School in 1978, where he also completed his surgical residency between 1983 and 1989. In the following years of international fellowship he visited the most recognized centers of thoracic surgery at that time, among others Prof. Wong in the Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong, Joel Cooper in the Toronto General Hospital, Prof. Hermes Grillo in the Massachusetts General Hospital, John Wallwork in the Papworth Hospital Cambridge, and Stuart Jamieson in San Diego.

In 1989 he started the Vienna Lung Transplant Program, which developed soon to one of the leading centers worldwide in this field. Being an academic surgeon from the beginnings, the number of his peer-reviewed papers exceeds 500 with a cumulative impact factor of well over 1000. Nowadays he is a member of 5 editorial boards, and reviewer for 11 scientific journals. Over the last decades he served as President of the European Association of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Councilor of the International Society for Heart- and Lung Transplantation and the American Association of Thoracic Surgery.

Among much other recognition Professor Klepetko earned the Great Decoration for Merits for the Republic of Austria and the Prize for Medical Sciences of Vienna.

After his appointment as the Head for the first independent Department of Thoracic Surgery at the Medical University of Vienna in 2010 this unit became an internationally recognized Center of Excellence not only for Lung Transplantation, but also for Surgery for Pulmonary Hypertension, for extended operative procedures in thoracic oncology, and for laryngeal-tracheal surgery, well reflecting the focuses of his clinical interest.

His open-mind approach both to colleagues and their patients from the other side of the former iron curtain allowed him not only to help many hundred sick persons in hopeless situations, moreover, he never forget about his unique chance and responsibility to provide training and education for the treating physicians, especially from our country. Well recognizing this over the last decade, the Hungarian medical and scientific community granted Professor Klepetko the Honorary Membership of the Hungarian Society of Surgery in 2006, the Hungarian Society of Pulmonology in 2010 and the Hungarian Society of Cardiology in 2016. Last, but not least, in 2015, after many years of well-elaborated cooperation with the Semmelweis University the Hungarian lung transplant program could be launched successful.