

It is truly a pleasure for me to introduce professor Udo Hoffmann, whom I consider my mentor and good friend for almost 20 years now.

Professor Hoffmann has been Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School and the founder of the Cardiovascular Imaging Research Center (CIRC), one of the leading research groups in the field of CV imaging in the world.

As the founder of CIRC, Dr. Hoffmann has developed a large vibrant multidisciplinary research program. The excellence of the research is documented in the design and conduction of hallmark randomized clinical trials in CV imaging, including the ROMICAT trials in acute chest pain, PROMISE in stable chest pain, both of which have shaped the recently published new US national guidelines for the management of chest pain syndrome. Another field of excellence has been his work to improve the understanding and therapeutic approaches to atherosclerotic heart disease and the role of inflammation, which is central to the REPRIEVE trial and patents which HIV as well as his work with the Framingham Heart Study. Over the last years, Prof. Hoffmann pioneered the application of deep learning to epidemiological studies and clinical trials. Overall, the research funding portfolio and the quality of publications are unique for a radiology grown clinical research program in the world.

His work has resulted in more than 500 original publications, many of them in top journals such as NEJM, JAMA, JACC, and Circulation. He received the Gold Medal of the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography in 2018 for his contributions. He is the Chair of the Imaging Advisory Committee for the German National Cohort Study, a population-based MRI study in 30,000 subjects.

Dr. Hoffmann has also trained more than 100 cardiologists and radiologists, many of them are now world leaders in CV imaging. Of special interest to the Semmelweis University is that he has trained most Hungarian CV imaging researchers including myself.