

In Memory of



Rüdiger Vahldieck
1951 - 2011

Rüdiger Vahldieck of Zürich, Switzerland, passed away on 21 March 2011 at age 59 after a long and valiant fight with brain cancer. He leaves behind his wife Zorka and his daughter Masha, who were at his bedside.

Rüdiger was born in Heiligenhafen, Germany, on 8 July 1951. He received the Dipl.-Ing. and Dr.-Ing. degrees, both in Electrical Engineering, from the University of Bremen, Germany, in 1980 and 1983, respectively. From 1980 to 1983 he was a Research Assistant at the Microwave Department of the University of Bremen, where he was engaged in computer-aided design of millimeter-wave integrated circuits. From 1984 to 1986 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Ottawa, Canada. In 1986 he joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Victoria, Canada, where he became a Full Professor in 1991. During the Fall and Spring of 1992/93 he was a Visiting Scientist with the Ferdinand-Braun-Institut für Hochfrequenztechnik, Berlin, Germany. In 1996 he accepted the position of Professor of Field Theory at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zürich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), first as Leader of the Field Theory Group and subsequently, in 2003, as Head of the Department of Field Theory and Microwave Electronics (IFH). In 2005, he became President of the Research Foundation for Mobile Communications and was elected Head of the Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (D-ITET) of ETH Zürich, a position he held at the time when the sudden onset of his grave illness brutally ended his career. Nevertheless, he continued to devote his waning energy to the well-being of his family, his institute, his students and his colleagues until he was no longer able to do so. He leaves a rich legacy of scientific discovery, technical innovation, engineering education, and service to the profession.

Professor Vahldieck has been the President and General Chairman of the International Zürich Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC Zürich) from 2003 to 2009, and was General Chair of the 2006 and 2008 APEMC/EMC Zürich in Singapore and 2007 EMC Zürich in Munich. Concurrently he was a Scientist-in-Residence at the Institute of High Performance Computing in Singapore where he initiated and oversaw several innovative research projects in microwave electronics and plasmonics. He tirelessly served the IEEE in key leadership roles, notably as a reviewer of several IEEE journals, Associate Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Microwave and Wireless Components Letters (2004-2006), Member of the MTT-15 Technical Committee on Field Theory, Chair of IMS TPSC Committee 3, and Chair of the Swiss Joint IEEE MTT, AP, and EMC Societies Chapter. He has been a member of IEEE since 1985, became a Fellow in 1999, and received several outstanding publication awards. He rarely missed an IMS event during the past twenty five years, regularly contributing innovative papers, workshop presentations and special sessions each year.

Rüdiger was a passionate sailor and spent whatever time he could find, on his sailboat in the company of his family and friends. His dream was to retire early and to sail the seas. He now has departed on his final voyage, leaving behind his loved ones, friends, students, research associates and colleagues to remember him fondly.

Wolfgang J. R. Hoefler
Singapore, March 28, 2011