

On Günter M. Ziegler's 60th Birthday

Martin Grötschel



When Günter Ziegler moved from MIT to my then chair in Augsburg as a postdoc in 1987, he was already a "rising star" in the field of discrete mathematics, an independent researcher who was carving his own way into combinatorics, discrete geometry, topology, and optimization. His scientific achievements have continuously reached further heights and have been honored at regular intervals. His distinctions include the Gerhard Hess Prize (1994), the Leibniz Prize (2001), and the Berlin Science Prize (2017).

After his move to Berlin in 1992 (first to ZIB, then to TU, and thereafter to FU), his portfolio of activities expanded steadily. Whatever Günter touched, he did it with such excellence that further honors followed. Because of his organizational efforts within the mathematical community, he was elected President of the DMV, the German Mathematical Association (2006-2008), and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Union (2019-2026).

He organized the Year of Mathematics in 2008 in Germany with outstanding success. This was an important reason for awarding him the 2008 Communicator Prize of the DFG. In 2006 he received the Chauvenet Prize of the AMS for his outstanding presentation of mathematical insights; and the mathematical world bestseller "Proofs from the Book" (with coauthor Martin Aigner) was awarded the Steele Prize of the AMS.



Günter Ziegler's interests are much broader. Inspired by the strong mathematical environment in Berlin, he addressed a wide variety of application topics; in addition, he keeps an eye on topics such as philosophy, history, and literature (he also received a prize here) and often presents his thoughts about these in appearances at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, of which he is, of course, a member.

With such a "background," it is almost obvious that the FU Berlin elected him as its president in 2018 and re-elected him in 2022.

Günter Ziegler is - in a nutshell - a multi-faceted and, in every respect, outstanding research personality who can only be wished joy in his work and a long continuation of his creative power.

[Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Martin Grötschel](#) is an internationally renowned expert in the field of combinatorial optimization. Over the years he has served in numerous functions and has held various high-ranking offices. Among them were the following selected few: From 1992-2015, he was a professor of Information Technology at Technische Universität Berlin. He was Vice President of the Zuse Institute Berlin (then known as Konrad-Zuse-Zentrum, ZIB) from 1992-2012 and served as ZIB-President from 2012-2015. He was Chair of the DFG Research Center MATHEON "Mathematics for Key Technologies" from 2002-2008.