

## Hans-Otto Meyer

Professor Hans-Otto Meyer joined the physics faculty at Indiana University in 1978. He was born in Basel, Switzerland, and educated at the University of Basel, obtaining his Ph.D. in 1970. This was followed by postdoctoral and visiting appointments at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility, and the University of Washington, Seattle. Hans returned to Basel for a period, receiving his *Privatdozent* in 1977, before we lured him to Indiana.

The Indiana cyclotrons had begun research operation only a couple of years before Hans arrived. The trail of reports and publications from that time documents how quickly this energetic man became an essential part of our research program. His interests in meson production, polarized beam interactions, and detector and apparatus development built upon his background most effectively. By 1981 he was leading a team to exploit the two-body photofusion reaction. This effort illuminated his taste for challenging experimental projects that could confront the limits to theoretical understanding of nuclear processes.

When the laboratory proposed the Cooler Project (a storage ring with cooled beams for internal target experiments that received funding beginning in 1983 and produced a first beam in 1988), Hans was among the first of the local scientists to recognize its promise as a new kind of experimental tool. He was planning experiments for the Cooler by 1984 and created an active group positioned to exploit the Cooler beams as soon as operation began. The beautiful results from the near-threshold neutral meson production in 1990 caught the attention of the physics world, forced a rethinking of the underlying theory, and proved the utility of the Cooler experimental environment.

Hans and his team made numerous technical innovations to the Cooler Project, including targets, detectors, luminosity monitors, polarization manipulations, and much more. The crowning achievement of this work was a series of polarized beam-polarized target experiments of exquisite complexity; its fundamental importance is still being realized. The fiscal plug was pulled on Cooler operation in 2002, just as this work was reaching peak productivity.

The record shows clearly the external recognition of Hans-Otto Meyer's work in the form of invited talks (more than 50), review papers, appointment to advisory committees in a number of countries, and the respect of his peers.

In his teaching career Hans has supervised a number of graduate students and postdocs who have gone on to productive lives in science. He has made major contributions to the physics department, especially in transforming the upperclass teaching laboratories.

Through this prolific career, Hans has maintained a vigorous lifestyle, not just skiing and scuba diving, but choosing the ascent of Kilimanjaro to mark his sixtieth birthday and more recently the higher peaks in the Andes.

*Robert Pollock*