

## **Philippe Duchaufour Medal for Prof. em. Dr. Dr. hc. Udo Schwertmann**

U. Schwertmann

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Udo Schwertmann, internationally recognized and highly respected for his activity conducted important research work at virtually all fields of soil science from atomic to mineral and to landscape scales throughout his career. This holds especially for his work on oxidic iron compounds, but he was certainly fascinated by soils as a major component of natural landscapes, i.e. terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems at all. During his long and productive career numberless review and original research papers are published together with colleagues from all over the world. His papers and books emphasise the outstanding role of soils in the function and processes of natural and managed ecosystems. Case studies of his research work include layer silicates, carbonates, soil erosion, sulfides, iron and aluminium oxides, biotic factors, soil management, and interactions between organic and inorganic soil components. Udo Schwertmann retired from active service in 1995, but it is still a great pleasure to work with. Udo Schwertmann's impact on soil research, teaching, and service is based on his cordial and decent personality still provoking enthusiasm for soil science in many students and colleagues.