

Vorstand

Irenenstraße 1
65189 Wiesbaden
Postfach 2170
65011 Wiesbaden
Telefon: 0611/2058 040-0
Telefax: 0611/2058 040-46
e-mail: info@dgim.de
internet: <http://www.dgim.de>

2008/07/15

Statement of the German Society of Internal Medicine on awarding Prof. Hans-Joachim Sewering with the „Günther-Budelmann-Medal“

On March 30, 2008, during the Annual Symposium of the German Society of Internal Medicine in Wiesbaden, the Professional Association of German Internists (Berufsverband Deutscher Internisten e.V., BDI) awarded Prof. Hans-Joachim Sewering with its highest ranking honor, the “Günther-Budelmann-Medal”. According to the statement of the BDI released on this occasion, this decision was based on his merits in engaging for independency and freedom of German medicine and thus his merits as a political leader for the medical profession.

The German Society of Internal Medicine (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Innere Medizin e.V., DGIM) has neither been consulted nor has even discussed the award of this honor with the BDI. The DGIM represents the scientific society of German Internal Medicine, while the BDI mostly centers on the political aspects of the medical profession. DGIM and BDI are thus independent corporations, joint interests and cooperations do exist e.g. in the area of curricular activities and education.

The German Society of Internal Medicine, represented through its board, is in no support whatsoever of awarding Prof. Sewering with this medal and thus is clearly distancing itself from this decision and award. The reasoning of the DGIM is well known and based on the activities of Prof. Sewering in the years of the National Socialist regime in Germany. Even though there might be merits of Prof. Sewering in the organisation of the German medical profession in the last four to five decades, such an honor is fully unjustified due to his memberships and activities in the years between 1933 and 1945.

The German Society of Internal Medicine hopes, to have clearly communicated its position to all medical friends and colleagues in Germany and abroad.

The Board of the German Society of Internal Medicine




Prof. R. Kolloch



Prof. G. Ertl



Prof. J. Schölmerich



Prof. H. Lehnert



Prof. H.-P. Schuster



Prof. R. Raedsch
