



Lutz started his career with moving into genetic toxicology in 1981 when starting to work on his Diploma in biology. This means that he has accrued in the meantime about 40 years of experience in safety assessment of medicines. From 1989 on, he has been the head of the department of Mutagenesis and Carcinogenesis at the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices in Berlin, Germany. In 2000, he moved into industry to create a group of entrepreneurs working on “In silico Safety and Metabolism” at Novartis in Basel (yes of course this was fate since the family lived in Berlin in the “Baseler Strasse”!). While at Novartis, he began to realize the power of working with project leader responsibilities in Oncology. In late 2004, he moved to F. Hoffmann-La Roche into the role of a toxicology project leader and has ever increased his area of expertise in toxicology and safety assessment ever since. Small molecules, antisense modalities, biologics and vector-based gene therapy products for new medicines for human disease, he has worked on them all. He has also served as liaison between safety assessment and research at Roche for neuroscience, ophthalmology and rare diseases establishing and tightening the close relationships between research and development in drug discovery. While he has contributed at Roche to move many molecules into man and further along the clinical development phase even into approval, the big reward came in Mid 2020 with the approval for the world’s first small molecule mRNA splice modifier, risdiplam. He has been a major driving force behind the fast R&D process on this medicine named Evrysdi to help patients with spinal muscular atrophy.

His internal and external reputation is evidently documented with the title of “distinguished scientist” and supported by his contribution to more than 100 peer reviewed publications and book chapters. Moreover, he left his mark in the international contribution in the ICH guideline process since 1991, the inception of the ICH process. Still today, he is representing EFPIA on ICH M7, the “mutagenic impurities” guideline. He also earned his reputation being a frequent presenter at international conferences.

On a private note, Lutz enjoys his family with 4 grandchildren, drives around with a few vintage cars and punishes himself to the limits with Marathon running (first one in 1984), mountain hiking and climbing.