

Professor Wolfgang SAUERWEIN was invited as a Specially Appointed Professor at the Neutron Therapy Research Center (NTRC) of Okayama University (Feb. 19th - April 17th, 2020).

Professor Wolfgang Sauerwein has been known as an international expert of BNCT (Boron Neutron Capture Therapy) for nearly 40 years (attached CV). He is now at the President of German Society for BNCT (GS:BNCT), a Scientific Society promoting BNCT, located in Essen - Germany. He has been in connection with Okayama University and the NTRC (Neutron Therapy research Center, Professors Ichikawa and Furuya) for a few years and he recently spent 2 months (4th time) at Okayama University as a Special Appointed Professor.

During this latest period, he had meetings with the Presidency team (Prs. Makino, President and Nasu, VP of Research). Also, a number of meetings took place where he could share innovative ideas and opinions with a range of professors at Okayama University and in Tokyo (NCC), Tsukuba, Osaka and Nagoya universities. His secondment was fruitful as he could have specific meetings for NTRC. He also initiated, in close connection with the URA division of the university, a new dynamic for BNCT: the RENOVATE initiative that aims at implementing in the International Cancer Therapy Community, a new mindset: as BNCT is basically widely renovating BNCT should rely on a large world-wide consortium where neutron physics, interdisciplinary, engineering biology, biochemistry, Boron chemistry, radiotherapy, cancer treatment methodologies strongly interplay. An application for RENOVATE funding has been submitted to the European Commission at a recent call for project (submission deadline: May-12th -2020). Now, the dynamics of RENOVATE is serving as a springboard for a range of international events: a next one is Technical Meeting organized by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) in Vienna in July-2020. A number of RENOVATE partners will participate. At this occasion, the consortium will be formally promoted in an International BNCT meeting for the 1st time.

Prestigious award: On April 21 this year, the Japanese Cabinet officially decided to honor Prof. Dr. Sauerwein for his great services as an expert in radiation therapy in the field of cancer research with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon of the Japanese Imperial House.

