

**Konrad Becker** studied chemistry and received his Ph.D. at the University of Basel in 1971. After postdoctoral studies he returned to the University of Basel as a lecturer in organic chemistry. In 1979 he joined the Central Research Laboratories of Ciba-Geigy, but soon moved to the patent department where he was responsible for patent prosecution in the field of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and dyestuffs. He is a qualified European Patent Attorney. He was promoted to Head of the Patent Department of Ciba-Geigy in 1992. At the time of the merger of Ciba with Sandoz, he took over the Patent and Trademark Department Switzerland of Novartis. As the chairman of the expert group Intellectual Property of "economiesuisse" (Swiss Business Federation), he was involved in many patent political discussions in Switzerland and in Europe, particularly on the patentability of inventions in biotechnology. Konrad Becker left Novartis in 2002 and started to work as an independent patent attorney offering services to the chemical, pharmaceutical and biotech industry. He is a lecturer at the postgraduate training in Intellectual Property at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland.