Matthias Hofmann, PhD

Goethe University Frankfurt / Main
Dept. of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology
Theodor-Stern Kai 7
60590 Frankfurt, Germany

German JSPS Alumni Association
Member of the Board
sponsoring@jsps-club.de
www.jsps-club.de

Hoshi Hajime – the medicine manufacturing king of Asia

Hoshi Hajime was born in 1873 in Iwaki, Fukushima ken. 1894 he moved to the US and started to study Economics at the renowned Columbia University in New York City two years later. He finished his studies with a Magister Artium degree. After his return to Japan in 1906, he became a member of the Shūgiin (衆議院, lower house) before founding his own pharmaceutical company Hoshi Seiyaku Kabushiki Kaisha. In a short time he revolutionized the Japanese pharmaceutical industry using his skills he had obtained at Columbia University. His contacts to Gotō Shimpei, the first civilian governor of the Japanese colony Taiwan, helped Hoshi to receive exclusive rights to grow opium in Taiwan and to get in touch with the German ambassador in Japan, Wilhlem Solf. Gotō and Solf were eager to increase the economic and cultural contacts between Japan and Germany after the end of the First World War. In 1921, both convinced Hoshi to support the newly founded “Notgemeinschaft der Deutschen Wissenschaft (NDW)”. Hoshi offered financial support and submitted 80.000 gold yen to the NDW. In the following five years he became one of the main financial supporters of the NDW and received several honours from German institutions including the renowned Kaiser-Wilhlem Institute. In the later years his interest shifted back to politics and he became member of the Sangiin (参議院, upper house). Hoshi died 1951 in Los Angeles.

Matthias Hofmann *is working since 2013 as the Scientific Director Clinical Research at the Dept. of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology, Goethe University, Frankfurt. Besides his knowledge and work experience in clinical research, he is Group Leader of the Tumour Mechanics research group at the same department since 2007. His scientific interest is focused on the optimization of the bio-availability of macromolecular antibodies in tumours. In the last years he performed several scientific, collaborative stays in Japan at the Dept. of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan (Jan/Feb 2015; Jan/Feb 2014 and Jan-May 2013).*
He obtained his PhD (summa cum laude) in 2007 at the Dept. of Dermatology and Venereology, Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany performing multiple parts of his PhD thesis abroad at the Dept. of Biomedicine, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway (2004-2005 and 2006) and Dept. of Dermatology, Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan (2006).
Since 2006 Matthias Hofmann is a member of the German JSPS alumni association (JSPS club) and since 2012 he is a board member of the German JSPS club.