

Hans-Peter Klenk was born in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany, in 1956. He received the Biochemistry degree from Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen (1986), the Ph.D degree from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (1994), the *facultas docendi* from Darmstadt University of Technology (2004) and the *venia legendi* for Microbiology from the Technical University Carolo-Wilhelmina at Braunschweig in 2007. Since 2007, H.-P. Klenk is with the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures. In 1994 and 1995 he was a postdoctoral fellow at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, before joining the Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR, Rockville, MD, USA) in 1996 as an Associate Investigator. In 1998 he was Laboratory Head of the Genomics Laboratory at Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany, and from end of 1998 to 2002 Vice-president Genomics and Computational Genetics at Epidauros Biotechnology AG in Bernried, Germany. In 2002 he founded e.gene Biotechnology Ltd., an independent provider of genomics and bioinformatics services. H.-P. Klenk is since 1999 convenor of the Functional Genomics working party of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM), and vice-chair of the working party Classification in Biology of the Classification Society (GfKI). He has been (co-)organizer of more than 35 natl. and international scientific conferences and symposia, including Functional Genomics of Microorganisms (Frankfurt 1999), Archaea 2005 (Hohenkammer Castle, Germany), and Microbial Diversity and Metagenomics (Chalkidiki, Greece, 2008). He is an Associate Editor of Microbiology, and a member of the Editorial Boards of Extremophiles and Standards in Genomic Sciences (SIGS).