

## **BIOSKETCH**

**Prof. Wolfgang A. Linke, University Hospital Münster, Germany**

Wolfgang Linke received a doctorate from the University of Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) and three years of postdoctoral training at the University of Washington (Seattle, USA). He was a Research Assistant at the Institute of Physiology, University of Heidelberg (Germany), where he also received the “Habilitation” degree, and he spent sabbaticals at the Mayo Clinic Rochester and Columbia University New York. He held professorships at the University of Muenster (Germany) in Molecular Cell Biology and Ruhr University Bochum (Germany) in Cardiovascular Physiology. Since 2017, he is Full Professor, Chair of Physiology, and Executive Director of the Institute of Physiology II at University Hospital Muenster. He is also a Guest Professor at the Heart Center, University Medicine Goettingen (Germany).

He is a Fellow of the International Society for Heart Research, the American Heart Association, the European Society of Cardiology, and Academician of The Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Lower Saxony (Germany). Since 2017, he has been the Chairmen of the European Society for Muscle Research and in 2024-26 he chairs the Working Group on Myocardial Function of the European Society of Cardiology. He is on the Editorial Boards of several renown scientific journals.

His main scientific interests include basic and translational research on cardiac and skeletal muscle function, heart failure and cardiomyopathies, with a focus on sarcomere mechanics, signaling, ultrastructure, and maintenance, with a strong translational view. He has published over 200 research papers. Current research addresses the cellular and molecular basis of myocardial stiffening in heart failure, the pathomechanisms of inherited cardiomyopathies, and length-dependent activation. He is a renowned expert in the biology and mechanical function of titin, the giant myofilament protein. His discoveries of the molecular mechanisms and regulation of titin elasticity in health and disease have shaped current views on the pathomechanism of diastolic heart failure and the search for a reversal of pathological cardiac stiffening by pharmaceuticals. He has published other influential papers on the mechanisms of titin-truncation cardiomyopathy, mechanosensing, sarcomeric protein quality control, and developmental changes in cardiomyocyte structure and function, including stem cell-derived cardiomyocyte maturation.