



### **„Never Believe What Your Professor Tells You“**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 Prof. Dr. Herwig G. Paretzke, the former Director of the Institute for Radiation Protection (ISS), gave a lecture with the challenging title “Importance of Stupidity in Research”.

According to Prof. Paretzke, in science there is no one, who knows the correct answer, in contrast to for example the school. What leads to the conclusion, that the strong belief in a theory cannot be equated with its truth. So the challenge of scientists is the absolute stupidity and the acceptance of this fact. But by no means should this lead to passivity of the scientist, but to ignorance by choice, and therewith to the effort of discovering the unknown by asking questions that finally lead to the gain of knowledge. This is also called productive stupidity. In the end it is important to stay open for new ideas and not to fear contradictions with existing theories, like Pablo Picasso said: “The head is round, so that thinking can easily change direction.”

Stefanie Karnebeck, Mathias Kalies