

Dr. Heiko U. Käfferlein received his PhD degree in chemistry and occupational toxicology in 2000 at the School of Natural Sciences Friedrich-Alexander-University in Erlangen, Germany. After spending more than two years at CIIT – Centers for Health Research (Research Triangle Park, NC, USA) in order to perform his postdoctoral research he returned in 2003 to Bochum, Germany. There, he is Head of the Centre of Toxicology at the Institute for Prevention and Occupational Medicine of the German Social Accident Insurance, Ruhr University Bochum (IPA).



The main research area of Dr. Käfferlein focuses on carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive toxicants (CMR compounds) at the workplace and via the environment. His research interests have developed as a result of not only the general human population's exposure, but also employees who are constantly exposed to CMR compounds at the workplace, and their increased vulnerability to certain diseases, e.g., cancer. Particular research goals are to identify chemical exposures, to understand the mode-of-action of individual compounds within a mixture and their interactions with each other and finally to study the dose-response associations in humans. For this purpose, he uses an integrated approach of biological monitoring. This approach includes the analysis of biomarkers of internal and effective dose, early biological effects, and altered structure and function in exposed populations. The overall aim is to contribute to sound-science decision making for the prevention of work- and environmental-related diseases.