

While universities in Asia and the United States continue to count highly renowned retired scientists among their permanent staff, German universities offer virtually no models for the retention of professorial emeriti in everyday university life. With few exceptions, even internationally leading scientists have no choice but to discontinue their service to the university at the age of 68, at the latest – a waste of valuable human capital.

The strategic project "TUM (Technical University of Munich) Emeriti of Excellence" – an innovation of TUM's former president (1995-2019), Wolfgang A. Herrmann – is designed to give outstanding scientists the opportunity to remain an active part of university life, in accordance with their availability and level of engagement, supporting our early-career scientists without blocking their career development by occupying permanent positions. The "TUM Emeriti of Excellence" was funded through both phases of the Excellence Initiative (2006-2019) and solidified as the "TUM Senior Excellence Faculty" (SEF) as part of the Excellence Strategy (2019-2026) of the German Federal and State Governments in the funding priority "Strategic Concept of TUM." Today, the SEF forms an integral part of the university community and a visible expression of its diversity strategy. (F: Proceedings of the European Academy of Sciences & Arts, Vol.1, No 1, (2022), pp. 1-7)