In Memory of Peter Hess
Advocate. Leader. Husband.
Dear Friends and LES members,

It is with great sadness and respect that the LES family mourns the passing of our great friend and leader, Peter Hess of LES Germany and LESI’s immediate Past-President. Peter passed away on April 30, 2018, the first day of the LES International Conference in San Diego. Peter was a great friend, he and Elisabeth touched our lives, as only happens in LES. In the span of a meeting and then two, and three… we became much more than business colleagues who enjoyed each other’s company, we truly became friends. That was in great part due to Peter’s charisma, inclusiveness and enjoyment of life! It was also due to the LES family that Peter so adored.

As the current President of LESI, at the moment of his passing, he was unable to preside over “his” conference because of his grave illness. All the participants of the IMDM received a heartfelt message from Prof. Dr. Tilman Müller-Stoy on Saturday, April 28, 2018 about his inability to attend the meeting. It is a tragedy that Peter died while the LES International Conference was being held.

Peter was a global leader in the fields of IP commercialization, technology transfer, and licensing. He was active in LES in many capacities, including as the President of LES Germany from 2014-2015, the LES International Board Treasurer, and as President of LESI from 2017-2018. He chaired one of our most successful LESI Annual Meetings held in Munich in 2005. During his term as LESI President, he chose the theme of “Strong IP Drives the Bottom Line” and championed this idea. His Presidential term was very successful with the advancement of several initiatives including a redesign of the les Nouvelles cover and developing joint initiatives between LESI and several prestigious IP organizations, such as the European Patent Office (EPO).

Thank you also to the Advisory Board of LES Germany (LES-DE) for their heart felt words of wisdom as expressed by President, Christian W. Appelt: “With Peter’s death, LES-DE, has not only lost one of its most productive and active members, but particularly a friend whose popularity has been deeply embedded in the hearts of many members of the LES family in Germany as well as in other professional organizations. LES-DE received many condolences after Peter’s death became publicly known, specifically from LES societies where he has been active in founding and further developing, namely LES Thailand and LES Turkey. A specific focus of Peter’s activities has been the further development of the relations of LESI to the European Patent Office. It is, simply, a tragedy that Peter had to leave the LES family and all of us at such a young age. We all, not only in LES-DE, but beyond, will keep his memory in our hearts.”

Peter’s main professional activity was to practice IP law as managing partner from the Munich office of the European law firm of Bardehle Pagenberg. At the firm, he handled, besides licensing and technology transfer, a variety of complex often times multi-jurisdictional patent prosecution and litigation cases at all instances before the German infringement and validity courts as well as the European Patent Office (EPO) and the German Patent and Trademark Office (GPTO).

To sum it up, Peter was a beloved member of the LES family, a charismatic leader and friend. He will be deeply missed by all of us. Peter was 55 when he lost his fight to cancer and, as for many who had a rather “shortened” life, he will be remembered by his enthusiasm, his relentless focus on achieving more, and his deep love for Elisabeth and life! Cheers my friend, continue to guide us as you have so well done in the past.

LES International Board 2018
Peter Hess at the 2017 LES Japan Annual Meeting in Kobe, Japan.
Peter with Ichiro Nakatomi of LES Japan.
Peter and Elisabeth Hess enjoyed participating at many LESI events over the years.
Michael Lantos receives a service award from Peter Hess.

John Paul and Peter Hess at 2017 LES Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Peter Hess at Bardehle Pagenberg, 2015.
Opening Remarks at many LESI meetings.
LES International President Peter Hess visits Japan. LESI Board members Ichiro Nakatomi, Peter K. Hess, François Painchaud, Patricia Bunye and Fiona Nicolson.


LES International President Peter Hess visits Japan. LESI Board members Ichiro Nakatomi, Peter K. Hess, François Painchaud, Patricia Bunye and Fiona Nicolson.
Cheers to LESI and Bardehle Pagenberg family and friends!
Peter enjoyed the extracurricular events at Bardehle Pagenberg over the years.
Enjoying the picturesque view.

Peter Hess with Peter Chrocziel, LES Germany Past President.
Peter engages in casual conversation at an event.
Peter enjoying meeting festivities with LES members. Top row: Peter, Francois Painchaud, LES USA & Canada, Johan Dupreez, LES South Africa, and Rob McInnes, LES ANZ. Bottom row: Peter, Arnaud Michel, LES France, and Ichiro Nakatomi, LES Japan.
Peter Hess, President of LESI from 2017 - 2018.
Joining Hands—a stronger LES Family and closer: participants gather at IMDM 2014 in Moscow.

Peter and Elisabeth always enjoyed traveling together to many LESI meetings and events.