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# Atmospheric Research

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## Dedication to Nikolai Dotzek

The Fifth European Conference on Severe Storms was held in Landslut, Germany, during 12–16 October 2009. At that conference, 98 oral presentations and 138 posters were presented. This special issue of *Atmospheric Research* comprises 35 articles representing the spectrum of sessions at the conference including climatologies, historical studies, model simulations, case studies, damage surveys, and forecast verification. Special issues from the first four conferences have been published in *Atmospheric Research*, **56** (1–4), **67–68**, **83** (2–4), and **93** (1–3).

It is with great sadness that we dedicate this special issue to Nikolai Dotzek. He was appointed the Special Issue Managing Guest Editor and began the process of peer review when he unexpectedly passed away on 29 May 2010. When I heard the news, I wanted to do what I could to honor Nikolai and give back to the ECSS community in Nikolai's name. I am honored to have helped bring this collection to completion.

Nikolai was a friend and a colleague. He had two rare personality traits. First, he was a genuine, generous person. He, along with his wife Birgit, extended hospitalities to scientists visiting Germany, and they made us feel special. Second, he was eternally positive and visionary. I had first met Nikolai during his 2002 visit to Norman, Oklahoma, where I first heard of his plan for a European Severe Storms

Laboratory. It was an ambitious plan that required planning, politics, and tact. Nikolai's accomplishments by the time of his death attest to his vision and determination, and foreshadowed what more might have transpired had he lived. I, and the rest of Nikolai's severe storms colleagues in Europe and abroad, wish the European Severe Storms Laboratory continued success in realizing Nikolai's vision.

*Special Issue Managing Guest Editor*

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