

Crystals are this guy's expertise



Penfield resident Ingo Leubner has combined his science education and former career in photo chemistry to create his own consulting business.

When TEMPTIME, a company based in New Jersey, was developing a product used to indicate whether or not medicines and perishable food items are fresh, they called on Ingo Leubner of Penfield. Leubner's expertise is crystals. As a private consultant with TEMPTIME, Leubner's scientific research is being used worldwide to help people make sure food and medicines are safe.

A German native, Leubner started up his own Crystallization Consulting business about six years ago. Crystallization is highly scientific. To simplify, he explains the smaller the crystals, the better they dissolve together. Leubner helps his clients get the size crystals they need for the product they are making.

He earned a doctorate in chemistry and science in Germany, did post-doctoral studies at Texas Christian University and eventually landed job teaching photo chemistry. He was hired at Eastman Kodak Co. in 1969 and moved to Penfield about four years later. In 1978, Leubner began working with crystals at Kodak.

There's still some guess work involved to the crystallization process, but Leubner said he draws on his past career experiences and his scientific knowledge to help clients produce the size crystals they need in the most effective way. "It increases their knowledge and speeds up the process of research to product development and manufacturing," he said.

Leubner helped TEMPTIME develop a product called the "Time-Temperature Indicator." According to Dawn Smith, director of research and development with the company, the indicator is used on vaccines and perishable food to help consumers determine if the product has exceeded its shelf life. Smith said the product is used in the World Health Organization's Immunization program, including its polio eradication program, and on food, mainly in France.

Leubner is one of the co-inventors of two of the patents the TEMPTIME holds for the process used to make the particles in the Time-Temperature indicators.

Leubner lives with his wife, Helga Peck, in Penfield, NY, a suburb of Rochester. He works with clients from the east to the west Coast, from Boston to California, and plans to do some consulting in Ireland next year. Since he began his business, Leubner said he's worked with about 25 clients. It's not enough to make a living, but Leubner is retired, and it's something he loves to do.

"It is a very satisfying thing to share the knowledge," he said. "I have lots of fun with this. My whole science career comes into play."

For more information: on **Ingo H. Leubner**,
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