Biography of Prof. Dr. med. Gerd Schmitz

- Medical studies and graduation from the University of Cologne
- 1975 he joined the research group of Prof. Dr. med. Gerd Assmann at the University in Cologne and followed him 1978 to the University of Muenster where he worked at the Institute of Atherosclerosis Research and the Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine as a postdoc
- He received his Ph.D. degree in clinical pathology in April 1979 ("Disturbances of Lipolysis in Tangier disease").
- He has become a certified clinical chemist, and specialist in laboratory and transfusion medicine.
- December 1984 he earned the qualification as an independent university teacher (habilitation "Diagnosis and Pathology of Apolipoproteinopathies")
- From September 1990 till June 1991 he worked as an associate professor at the University of Muenster
- 1991-2004 member of the International Scientific Advisory Board of Bayer Diagnostic Corporation(Terrytown,NY, USA)
- Cofounder of the Regensburg Biopark and the Competence Center for Fluorescent Bioanalysis.
- Initiator of the Institute of Functional Genomics at the University of Regensburg, headed by Prof. P. Oefner
- Coordinator for the DFG-Transregional Collaborative Research Center (SFB-TR13) Membrane Microdomains and their role in Human Diseases
- In 2000 cofounder of the MULTIMETRIX GmbH, the first company in Germany developing multiplex testing for various infections and autoimmune diseases on the LUMINEX platform
- From June 1991 till October 2014 he held the chair of Laboratory Medicine and Transfusion Medicine at the University of Regensburg
- Together with his wife, Dr. rer nat Anna Schmitz-Madry, he founded 2014 the LipoConsult GmbH in Havixbeck, near Muenster.
- He is still a member of the Medical Faculty of the University of Regensburg
- The major research interest of Prof. Gerd Schmitz has been the pathogenesis of vascular and metabolic diseases and other chronic degenerative diseases of the elderly with a major focus on the role of the innate immune system (monocytes/macrophages; neutrophils) and particularly in cytomics of blood cells and their microparticles
- His research group was the first who published the genetic defects of the rare diseases Acid Lipase Deficiency (Wolman's Disease/Cholesteryl Ester Storage disease), Apo AI Deficiency with Plane Xantomas and ABCA1 Deficiency (Tangier disease). The group continued identifying new mutations in ABCA3 deficiency, ceroid lipofuscinosis, Hermansky-Pudlack Syndrome and sphingolipidoses, eg. Niemann-Pick disease
- The most frequently cited result is the cloning of ABCA1 (ATP-binding cassette transporter A-1) as the major regulator of plasma high density

lipoproteins (HDL) and identification of its loss-of-function mutations leading to the familial HDL-deficiency syndrome in Tangier disease

- In the field of Laboratory Medicine and Transfusion Medicine his major interest is development and implementation of new technologies for liquid,cellular and molecular analyses
- In 1991 he founded the European Working Group on Clinical Cell Analysis (EWGCCA) funded by the EU-BIOMED program, establishing numerous consensus protocols for clinical cell analysis in hematology, hemostaseology and cellular immunology
- Together with other leading European scientists he organized 2005 the Danubian Biobank Consortium funded by the FP6-EU project SSA 018822(http://www.danubianbiobank.de) to promote health care integrated biobanking (HIB)
- From 2007 till 2012 he was the coordinator of the European FP-7-IP-Project LipidomicNet.
- He participates in numerous systems-health projects within national BMBF-SysMBIO , BMBF-DEEP and EU-funded MyNewGut Consortia
- Prof. Schmitz is a member of the editorial boards of several scientific journals
- He as published more than 370 scientific papers and over 30 book chapters receiving more than 15.000 citations.