

Obituary

Professor Gerd Hausdorf, 1952–2001



GERD HAUSDORF DIED SUDDENLY ON 10 September, 2001. He graduated from medical school in Hamburg in 1980. Also in Hamburg, he undertook his Paediatric residency training which he completed in 1988. He obtained his “Habilitation”, and was appointed as Oberarzt, at the German Heart Centre in Berlin. He made important contributions to the development of the centre. In October 1993, at the early age of 41, he became Professor of Paediatric Cardiology at the Charite, Humboldt University, Berlin, and greatly strengthened this department with his clinical and research contributions. In 1996, he moved to Hanover as Professor of Paediatric Cardiology at the Medizinische Hochschule, where he remained until

the middle of 2001. At that time, due to reorganisation of services in the region, he moved again to Göttingen.

Professor Hausdorf wrote numerous peer-reviewed papers, books and book chapters. Early in his career, his major interests included the study of cardiac performance, ultrasonography, and the uses of nuclear medicine in paediatric cardiology. By the early 1990s, he had become deeply involved in interventional cardiology in the treatment of congenital cardiac disease. This was to be his lasting interest and his major contribution. He was a pioneer of such techniques as catheter perforation of atretic valves and closure of septal defects. He was the first to perform catheter completion of the Fontan operation. He was one of the most innovative paediatric cardiologists of his era. His involvement in catheter implantation of endocardial and endovascular prostheses led him to an in-depth study of the materials in use, and of possible new and biodegradable materials. This desire for comprehensive knowledge was characteristic, whether in medicine, philosophy, or underwater photography. His wide culture made him one of the most interesting of colleagues and friends. He was dedicated to his family and a loyal friend. He was also an enthusiastic member of the Editorial Board of the Journal. His death leaves an unfillable void. He is survived by his wife Jacki and four children, Christian aged 18 years, Simon aged 17 years, Jonas aged 11 years, and Jakob aged 5 years.

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