



In Memoriam

Prof. Dr. med. Karl Heinz Mauritz

Em. Professor of Neurological Rehabilitation at the University of Berlin

The **World Federation of Neurorehabilitation** is very sad to announce that our former Regional Vice President for Europe Prof.Dr. Karl Heinz Mauritz passed away on May 12, aged 77.

Professor Mauritz, for decades, was one of the most eminent protagonists of neurological rehabilitation in Germany and around the world. He was a pioneer in establishing new technologies and evidence-based thinking in our field. He was, for many years, a strong supporter of WFNR.

After completion of his education in Neurology with Professor Richard Jung in Freiburg, he developed an interest in restorative neurology and neuro-prosthetics. As a Heisenberg fellow he worked at the NIH and the paraplegia department of Cleveland Hospital before returning to Germany to work with Professor HJ Freund. They jointly developed a concept for establishing a specialized Institute for Neurological Therapies at the University of Düsseldorf, which later became the NTC. Before starting as NTC director, he was appointed to the chair of rehabilitation at the University of Cologne in 1986 and, in 1989, he became Medical Director of the Clinic Berlin. This was organized in a public-private partnership with the first full professorship of Neurorehabilitation at the University of Berlin.

During the following years he developed a concept for neuroscience driven neurorehabilitation and the blending of technology into it. He was successful in raising a new generation of highly motivated young neurologists and neuroscientists to enter rehabilitation.

He was the founding president of the German Society for Neurorehabilitation in 1989 and served both this organization and the WFNR for many years.

After he retired, he became involved in setting up neurorehabilitation departments in Kazakhstan and China.

We are extremely sad to lose an eminent colleague, a Knowledgeable scientist, passionate physician and fantastic academic teacher as well as a fighter for patients' rights - not to say a good friend who has always impressed us with his clear and clever thinking as well as with his sense of humour.

We will miss him greatly and express our profound condolences to his family and friends.

The World Federation for Neurorehabilitation

Two personal statements from WFNR officers who knew Professor Mauritz very well:

I think I met Karl Heinz first in 1985 when he joined the Department of Neurology at Düsseldorf University. At that time, I had not even considered a career in neurorehabilitation. However, Karl Heinz, in some sense, pushed me into this direction and helped me a great deal to familiarise myself with this idea. This was the reason why I took over the directorship of the newly founded Neurological Therapy Centre at the University of Düsseldorf in spring 1987 after Karl Heinz had decided to take the professorship of rehabilitation at the University of Cologne.

1989 was the year of many changes in international politics. In the summer, Karl Heinz and I, with five more colleagues, decided to establish the German Society for Neurological Rehabilitation after he had just been appointed as the first full professor for neurorehabilitation in Germany at the University of Berlin and, over the coming years, we were happy to see this field developing more and more. I was glad to do this with Karl Heinz as a good friend and an eminent scientist as well as a clever, politically thinking colleague on my side. Over these years, I learned a lot from his knowledge and inspiration.

I owe him a lot and I am extremely sad to have lost him now, especially as we, over the years, also had a lot of fun together.

Volker Hömberg
WFNR President

My first encounter with Karl-Heinz Mauritz was with his research publications. Being a final year visiting medical student at Duke University (Durham, N.C., U.S.A.) I loved the medical center's library where I used to spend my off time partially. As the relationship between the brain, its function and dysfunction, and any relevance for signs, symptoms and everyday life activities genuinely interested me, the work of Karl-Heinz Mauritz caught my attention at the time. He had looked into brain function with single cell recordings in his lab research, looked into the effects of neurological diseases on body function and related neurophysiology quantitatively, and made use of such knowledge to promote rehabilitation approaches including the use of technology. Before returning back to Germany, I wrote to him to see whether he could offer mentorship and residency education for a young "to-be-neurologist".

And he did, he invited me to come to Berlin where he was about to establish clinical and academic neurorehabilitation with a first chair in Germany. He was indeed a great mentor, supported his team members with his expertise, promoted professional skills, and always considered clinical service and research to be two sides of the coin that intrinsically belong together. As a supervisor and head of department he was very friendly, both value-orient and liberal with a clear vision to follow. To be on his team was both a great honour and a great pleasure. I couldn't have thought of anyone else being as supportive of a young clinician and researcher as he was. He cared a lot for his team, the future seemed to be ours. And indeed, it was fascinating to be on a team that with its research groups had an impact both on professional

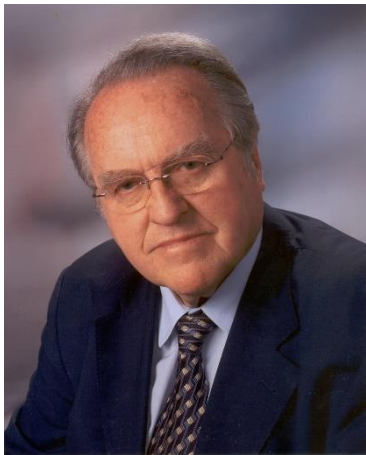
networking and established research results that changed clinical practice in neurorehabilitation, not only within Germany, but well beyond.

In my memories, Karl-Heinz Mauritz will always remain someone to look up to, his achievements lead to leadership, this and his friendly future-oriented personality to innovation and advances in the field, and hence benefits for many with neuro-disabilities, an orientation that was fundamental to his work.

With gratefulness,

Thomas Platz

WFNR, Regional Vice President Central and Western Europe



In Memoriam

Professor Franz Gerstenbrand

Honorary President of WFNR

The World Federation for Neurorehabilitation is very sad to announce that our Honorary President, Professor Franz Gerstenbrand passed away on the evening of 30 June 2017, aged 92, after a brief illness.

Professor Gerstenbrand was, for many decades, one of Europe's most eminent neurologists and a "Founding Father" of the modern field of neurorehabilitation. He was a dedicated supporter of WFNR and all its activities since its formation.

In recognition of his countless contributions to the field of neurorehabilitation, in 2014 WFNR created the Franz Gerstenbrand Award which is given for outstanding clinical or basic research in the field of neurological rehabilitation.

We thank Professor Gerstenbrand for his continuous support of WFNR knowing that the world of neurology has lost a most significant person and hero in the field. We will never forget him as an eminent neurologist, a dear friend, a dedicated teacher, and a politically astute and effective supporter. We will miss him greatly and we express our profound condolences to his wife, daughters and to all of his relatives and many friends.

The World Federation for Neurorehabilitation