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Karl-August Bushe

Karl-August Bushe spent his childhood in Göttingen. From 1939 to 1945 he was a student of medicine at the universities of Freiburg, Göttingen and Berlin, taking his final examinations for his first degree in medicine in Berlin in 1945. In 1945 too, he was awarded his doctorate from the University of Göttingen. His thesis topic was "The history of pernicious anaemia."

He then first completed surgical training (his tutors in surgery were R. Stich and H. Hellner), followed by post-graduate training in neurology and neurophysiology in Göttingen. In 1949 he started his neurosurgical training with Professor Okonek in Göttingen. In 1956 he qualified as a specialist in surgery and in 1959 as a specialist in neurosurgery.

In 1956 Karl-August Bushe summarized the results of his scientific experimental work in his habilitation thesis "The spasmogenic properties of pencillin administered locally to the cerebral cortex." In 1961 he was called to take up a professorship in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Göttingen. In 1962 he was then called to the Chair of Neurosurgery at the University of Göttingen, succeeding his own tutor Okonek on his death. He remained in Göttingen as Director of the University Hospital's Department of Neurosurgery until 1974, not taking up the calls he received to professorships at the Universities of Cologne and Freiburg in 1969 and 1974. In 1974 he was called to the University of Würzburg, acceding to the Chair there on 01.01.1975. There he remained as Director of the Neurosurgery Department of the University Hospital's Head Clinic until 30.03.1991.



His clinical and scientific emphases were vascular and tumour surgery of the brain, neurosurgery in children and young persons, neurotraumatology and spinal neurosurgery. A long list of publications and lively lecturing activity at national and international congresses bear witness to these interests of his. He passed on his knowledge in numerous books on which he worked as a co-editor, such as "*Chirurgie des Gehirns und Rückenmarks des Kindes- und Jugendalters*" [Brain and Spinal Cord Surgery in Childhood and Adolescence] with P. Glees, and the fourth edition of "*Die Chirurgie*" [Surgery], in which he was took an active part in collaboration with L. Koslowski, T. Junginger and K. Schwemmler in 1999. He it was who brought to life such publications as *Kinderchirurgie* and *Neuropediatrics*. Other specialist journals, notably *Neurochirurgia*, *Pediatric Neuroscience*, and *Seara Medica*

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Neurocirurgica (Brazil) were privileged to have him as a member of their Editorial Boards.

His competence both as a specialist and as a scientist made him a valued member of many learned societies and academies, e.g. the Societies for Surgery, Accident Medicine and Neuroradiology and the German EEG Society. He had belonged to the German Academy of Natural Scientists Leopoldina in Halle since 1984. Learned societies abroad, such as the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, the British Society of Neurological Surgery, and the Scandinavian Society for Neurosurgery, honoured him with the status of Corresponding Member.

The German Society for Neurosurgery has lost one of its most eminent members in Karl-August Bushe. Its annual scientific meetings took place in 1967 in Bad Harzburg and in 1968 in Göttingen under his chairmanship. The 40th annual meeting of the Society was held in Göttingen in 1989, when he was President.

After being President of the European Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery (1972) and the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (1974–1975), he chaired the congress of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery in 1976 in Würzburg. The high point of his eminence was being president of the 7th International Congress on Neurosurgery of the WFNS (World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies) in Munich in 1981, for which he was awarded the West German Distinguished Service Cross in 1981. Also in 1981, the World Federation nominated him its Honorary President. His unfailing dedication and services to the cause of neurosurgery are reflected in numerous honours: in 1982 Karl-August Bushe was nominated an honorary member of the German Society for Neurosurgery and in 1988, an honorary member both of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and of the Society of Neurological Surgeons. The German Society for Neurosurgery awarded him the Fedor-Krause medal in 1991.

Karl-August Bushe did not only put himself at the service of his specialty, but also felt it his duty to take part in the work of academic committees. From 1966 to 1967 he was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Georg-August University in Göttingen and from 1981 to 1983, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Bavarian

Julius Maximilian University in Würzburg. From 1990 to 1992 he was Chairman of the Faculty of Medicine's Ethics Committee in Würzburg.

In 1990 he was called to membership of the Universities and Colleges Commission of the Free State of Saxony and in this capacity became the first Dean of the Carl Gustav Carus Faculty of Medicine at the Technical University of Dresden on its foundation, a post he held from 1991 to 1994. In appreciation of the enormous amount of work he put into this, calling up his reserves of scientific experience and an admirable depth of sensitivity in academic politics, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Carl Gustav Carus Faculty of Medicine in 1995.

Karl-August Bushe was in charge of the Archive for the History of German Neurosurgery maintained in the Department of Neurosurgery of the Würzburg University Hospital. In parallel with his interests in the history of medicine, for many years he had concerned himself with the problem of law and medicine. Thus, for many years he chaired the 'Doctors and Jurists' study group operating as part of the combined working group of scientific and medical specialist societies, whose conferences on current problems in medical law frequently took place in Würzburg under his direction.

Karl-August Bushe leaves three children and his wife Eva-Christa, who always wholeheartedly supported his commitment to the Universities of Göttingen, Würzburg and Dresden and to national and international specialist neurosurgical societies, and to whom we are also greatly indebted.

In Karl-August Bushe we are all losing an exceptional person with a towering personality, who impressed all of us with his sense of duty, his readiness for service, and meticulous attention to detail, but also with his tolerant kindness, hospitality and helpfulness. We shall remember him with pleasure and gratitude. We are bound by his example.

Particular thanks are due to this teacher I so looked up to for his tireless promotion of paediatric neurosurgery. This is what made it possible for the first separate department of paediatric neurosurgery at a German university to be founded in 1986.