

## Obituary

**Gerhard N. Schrauzer, PhD, MS, FACN, CNS**  
**March 26, 1933 – October 26, 2014**

**Joel D. Wallach**

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**Dr. Schrauzer in a recent photo.**

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Dr. Gerhard Schrauzer died of complications from hip replacement surgery following a hip fracture at the age of 83.

Dr. Schrauzer was an iconic polymath of the 20th and 21st centuries, who wrapped his brain around chemistry, trace element nutrition, microbiology and education. He was a legendary international crusader for public health based on preventative nutrition rather than pharmaceuticals. His core priorities were his work with the trace mineral selenium in the fields of cardiovascular disease (Keshan Disease), cancer prevention and treatment, HIV and lithium in the field of mental health. Dr. Schrauzer is one of the founders of the new discipline, Bioinorganic Chemistry, and is known internationally for his work on nitrogen fixation, vitamin B12, rare earths, and the biological functions of selenium, especially in relation to its cancer protective properties and lithium as an essential nutrient with particular relationship to brain physiology and human behavior. He is an acknowledged world authority on the roles of essential and toxic trace elements in health and disease.

Gerhard Schrauzer began his chemistry studies at the University of Munich, where he received his PhD in Chemistry and graduated summa cum laude in 1956. He held a postdoctoral appointment with the Monsanto Research Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio, for three years before returning to the University of Munich in 1959 as a member of its Science Faculty.

In 1964, Dr. Schrauzer immigrated to the United States to join the Shell Development Company at Emeryville, California. In 1966, he took an appointment with the University of California, San Diego, where he remained until his retirement in 1994, after having served as the Chairman of the Department of Chemistry for his last twenty-five years there.

Dr. Schrauzer held visiting professorships at the University of Nanjing, Peoples Republic of China, the University

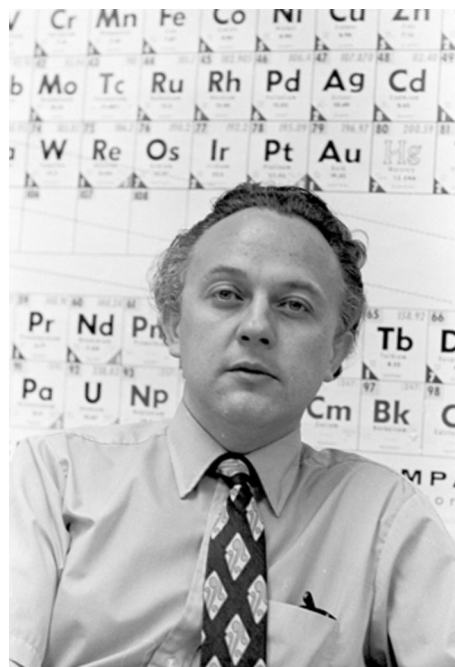
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J. D. Wallach  
Chula Vista, California, USA

of Osaka, and the School of Medicine, University of Occupational and Environmental Health in Kitakyushu, Japan. In 1997, he was named Honorary Professor at Xi'an Medical University, Peoples Republic of China. He was a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Institution of Nutrition, the American College of Toxicology, the Association of Clinical Scientists, the American Chemical Society, and many other prestigious organizations.

In 1975, Dr. Schrauzer founded the journal *Biological Trace Element Research* and served as Editor-in-Chief until 2014. He edited six books in the fields of chemistry and medicine and wrote or co-wrote more than 300 scientific papers in well-respected, peer-reviewed, and refereed professional journals.

Dr. Schrauzer was devoted to his wife and family of four children and ten grandchildren. His passion for hard work was second to none, as was his appreciation for the clement weather and beauty of his adopted California where he lived and worked for over fifty years. His interests included the First World War and fine British motorcars. He was always a man of God and science. Dr. Schrauzer is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carol, a daughter Tammy Bernice Alexandria Marie, and sons Kenneth Gerhard, Michael Edgar Otto, and Richard Daniel.



**Dr. Schrauzer at UC San Diego, January 1971.**

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