OBITUARY

Othmar Schubiger

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On the 27th of March 2017, the honorary member and long-standing former member of the executive committee of the ESNR, Dr. Othmar Schubiger, passed away after a 10-year fight against his aggressive disease. Othmar Schubiger was a dedicated neuroradiologist and contributor to the development of the ESNR.

Othmar Schubiger was born in 1942 in Degersheim, a village near St-Gallen in Switzerland. His father was a country

general practitioner, a circumstance which influenced him to study medicine. After finishing his medical school at the University of Zürich in 1969, he became a resident at the University Hospital of Zürich and trained consecutively 1 year in pathology, radiology, and general surgery. Based on these experiences, he decided to specialize in radiology. During his training, he was impressed by the pioneering work of the microneurosurgeon, Prof. Gazi M. Yasargil, and of the otologist and pioneer skull-base surgeon, Prof. Ugo Fisch. This experience led him to the decision to specialize in neuroradiology. After an additional year of training in radiotherapy and nuclear medicine as was the custom in these years, he settled as a senior physician in Neuroradiology at the University Hospital of Zurich. During the following years, he followed several 1-month visiting fellowships in different neuroradiological departments in Europe and the USA such as those of Prof. René Djindjan in Paris, Prof. Jacqueline Vignaud in Paris, and Prof. Hans Newton in San Francisco. During his training, he experienced the transition of the classic invasive neuroradiology consisting of pneumoencephalography, cisternography, myelography, and cerebral angiography by direct puncture techniques to modern neuroradiology brought about by the introduction of computed tomography in the 1970s.

In 1980, he accepted the invitation to become Chief Physician of Neuroradiology in the Cantonal Hospital of Aarau, Switzerland, and in 1986, he was finally installed as Chief physician of the Neuroradiological and Radiological Institute of the AMI-Klinik Im Park that later became Hirslanden-Klinik Im Park in Zürich, where he stayed until his retirement in the year 2013.

Othmar devoted his entire professional life to his beloved field, neuroradiology, including head and neck radiology. His special scientific interests were the neuroimaging diagnosis of sellar tumors, spinal degenerative diseases, intracranial

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aneurysms, and otological neuroimaging. In these topics, he published important papers.

He was, together with Peter Huber, Ernst Wilhelm Radue, and Anton Valavanis, a founding member of the Swiss Society of Neuroradiology, where he served several offices as treasurer, president, and past-president. Based on his special interest in ENT and particularly otological imaging, he was also a founding member of the European Society of Head and Neck Radiology. In addition, he was a full member of the German, Austrian, European, and American Societies of Neuroradiology, and he considered it as his duty to attend almost all annual meetings of these societies. He was particularly interested in the further

growth and development of the ESNR, which culminated in his election in 1993 as a member of the ESNR executive committee in the office of treasurer, a duty which he fulfilled with a high sense of responsibility until 2006. In recognition of his accomplishments, he was elected in 2009 Honorary Member of the ESNR and in 2013 Honorary Member of the Swiss Society of Neuroradiology.

The European neuroradiological community and particularly the ESNR and the Swiss Society of Neuroradiology lost a great supporter of neuroradiology, a colleague who was a true friend, a modest person, and a real gentleman.