

## Obituary

**Frank Schepelmann**



Frank Schepelmann, professor of neurosurgery at the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Gießen, died tragically at sea on 25 August 1978 at the age of 43.

The Department of Neurosurgery in Gießen and German neurosurgery have lost a highly qualified clinician and research worker.

After graduating from the University of Heidelberg and after presenting his MD thesis he worked for two years in general surgery and at the same time prepared the basic concepts of his future research

under the guidance of Prof. Richard Jung at the Department of Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology at the University of Freiburg.

He entered our Department in 1967, and became specialist in neurosurgery in 1970. He received the title of Docent in 1972, and took over the function of clinical Oberarzt in 1975. He completed his habilitation in 1975, and was nominated professor at the Department of Neurosurgery in 1978.

He was a versatile clinician. He loved neurosurgery, and particularly meticulous work under the microscope, which he performed with great patience and skill. His scientific interest focused on neurophysiological studies of the human motor system, particularly in patients with acute brain stem lesions or spinal damage, and in patients subjected to hemispherectomy. He disclosed and described rhythmic patterns of motor activity in the decerebrate state and in the s.c. apallic syndrome, and analysed the relation of these rhythmic phenomena to the respiratory rhythms. This work is an example of extraordinary scientific achievement. The English translation of his most important findings has been prepared for publication in this journal and will remain as his last gift to all of us.

Frank Schepelmann was a quiet, modest, and highly cultivated man. All who knew him were immediately attracted by his personal warmth and natural modesty. It was not a coincidence that he loved music and sailing. The sailing boat was his dream for many years. When it became fulfilled it gave him and his family a lost of satisfaction and happy days. But it also took him from us, suddenly and so painfully. We all have lost a very good friend.

Hans Werner Pia, Gießen