

Obituary

Professor Rudolf Marx

Professor Dr. med. Rudolf Marx, formerly Head of the Division of Hemostaseology at the University of Munich, died on 19 January, 1990, at the age of 77 years.

Rudolf Marx was born in Landstuhl (Rheinland-Pfalz) and received his medical training at the Universities of Munich, Freiburg and Berlin. After the war he entered the First Department of Medicine in Munich where he became interested in the physiology and pathophysiology of blood coagulation. In 1953, he published his book, *Hämostaseologie*, which summarized his early studies on the mechanism of blood coagulation. This was the basis for the term "hemostaseology." In 1965, he was appointed Head of the Division of Hemostaseology of the Department of Internal Medicine and from 1972–1976 he was Director of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Munich. He retired in 1980 but remained active as a clinician and scientist.

Rudolf Marx published over 250 scientific articles. His scientific interest was broad and included the physiology and pathophysiology of hemostasis, as well as the diagnosis and management of hemorrhagic and thrombotic disorders. He made a number of important observations, such as the identification of antiplasmin, he developed a sensitive method for the measurement of bleeding time, and he described the antithrombotic potential of heparinoids in the early 1950s. He was the first to use a factor IX concentrate which was extremely effective in the treatment of hemophilia B. For his scientific work he was awarded the E.K. Frey-Preis, the Rudolf-Jürgens-Medaille, the Lukas-Schönlein-Preis and the Bundesverdienstkreuz.

Rudolf Marx was one of the founders of the "Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Blutgerinnungsforschung," a forum for the exchange of scientific ideas in the field of hemostasis, and greatly promoted research in this field. He was one of the earliest members of the World Federation of Hemophilia and organized, together with Prof. Landbeck, regular meetings on the diagnosis and treatment of hemophilia. His name is also connected with the traditional "Hamburger Blutgerinnungssymposium."

Rudolf Marx was not only interested in medicine, but had a profound knowledge of Roman and Greek literature and was highly interested in the arts and history. Personally, he was a very kind man who always encouraged young researchers in his department and in our society.

Our society has lost one of its most distinguished members.

Klaus Lechner, Gert Müller-Berghaus

On behalf of the Gesellschaft für Thrombose- und Hämostaseforschung