
Obituary

Dr. Michael Keeri-Szanto

Dr. Keeri-Szanto was born in 1922 in Budapest where he attended Medical School. He was unusually tall in stature, physically and intellectually, and it was these same qualities which unfortunately led to his studies being interrupted by incarceration in a labour camp.

This was the first of many setbacks which Dr. Keeri-Szanto suffered but which failed to diminish his ever-present thirst for knowledge which he pursued all his life despite the complications of diabetes which ultimately led to his untimely death on January 28, 1984.

He graduated from Budapest in 1945 where he later studied and taught physiology. In 1949, Dr. Keeri-Szanto left Hungary for Canada pausing briefly in Austria. While in Saskatoon his interests turned to anaesthesia and Minneapolis was his choice for post-graduate training. In 1956, he joined the anaesthesia staff of the Notre Dame Hospital in Montreal with the ultimate rank of Assistant Professor. Finally, being invited as Chief of Anaesthesia at Victoria Hospital, Dr. Keeri-Szanto relocated for the last time in London, Ontario in 1968 attaining the rank of Clinical Professor at the University of Western Ontario.

Known to everyone as "K-Z" he pursued his interest in clinical pharmacology with a thoroughness and tenacity. Professor Eger said of him, "I believe that he possesses a talent which is either not often found or not often used – a talent to look at things in a different way and to apply pharmacokinetic concepts to clinical practice and to use clinical practice to derive new pharmacokinetic concepts." He was one of the few unusual people who deserved the title of Professor in the traditional sense.

His scientific interests, however, did not exclude his interests in the arts in which he had a breadth and depth of knowledge rarely matched.

The profession has lost a courageous, talented,

innovative and cultured member who will be remembered by his colleagues for his continuous research which later was directed to Demand Analgesia; and by his friends for his loyalty, encyclopaedic knowledge and ever-present sense of humor.

Dr. Keeri-Szanto is survived by his wife Suzanne and five children.

MJD and WES. London