Inna Nitz, MD (1932–2020)

Alan E. Oestreich¹ · Tamar Kahane Oestreich²

Published online: 15 September 2020

© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2020

Inna Nitz was born in Berlin on Dec. 28, 1932, to a Chinese mother and a foreign father. She had five siblings. She remained in Germany when, at the age of 9 months, her parents returned to China. There, her father was shot by authorities and her mother went missing. It was arranged for Inna to stay with friends of the family in Germany. She excelled at school and was made valedictorian of her gymnasium graduating class after making top grades. She was respected by students and teachers alike. She stayed in Berlin and after World War II she lived in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), where she attended medical school.

She maintained her Chinese (People's Republic) passport.

She began her career at Berlin's Charité Hospital, where upon the invitation of two professors she began to develop a pediatric radiology service in 1964. She retired from Charité after over 35 years in 1995, having primarily been the chief of Pediatric Radiology.

In 1965 she attended the 2nd Congress of the European Society of Paediatric Radiology, that year in Stockholm,

Sweden, and she became a full member of the Society shortly thereafter. Because of her Chinese passport she was often able to attend their meetings in the West, as well as many meetings of the Gesellschaft für Pädiatrische Radiologie, making many lasting friendships. In 1990, after the fall of the Berlin Wall but before the German reunification, she was able to attend the Annual Congress of the [North American] Society for Pediatric Radiology in Cincinnati, her first trip to the USA, arranged by Prof. Herbert Kaufmann of West Berlin, Dr. Alan and Tamar Oestreich, and the Radiology Department of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. While visiting her long-time friends the Oestreichs and their son Michael, she had occasion to visit Michael's German American bilingual elementary school, where she awed, auf Deutsch, his classmates.

In 1986 Dr. Nitz, with Hans-Heinrich Thiemann of Halle, published in the German Democratic Republic their *Röntgenatlas der normalen Hand im Kindesalter*, giving national age-dependent standards for children's hand radiographs. The third edition was published by Thieme Verlag in 2006.

Wherever she went, Inna Nitz was recognized as a cheerful, accomplished, charming, very warm friend and pediatric radiologist. In Berlin she adopted two young twins, Martin and Stephan, who are now adults. She married some years ago Hans Gutheil, who survives her.

She died in Berlin on June 19, 2020.

Acknowledgments Photo courtesy of Dr. C. Bassir, Charité – Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany.

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

✉ Alan E. Oestreich
alan.oestreich@cchmc.org

¹ Radiology ML5031, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, 3333 Burnet Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229-3039, USA

² Cincinnati, OH, USA