

A LIVING LEGEND OF GERMAN CLINICAL MEDICINE



Professor Dr. Nepomuk Zöllner
Senior Editor of the European Journal of Medical Research

Teaching medical students the particular and the general of clinical medicine has been considered for more than hundred years of medical education in Germany the most rewarding aspect of a clinical professor. The actual amendment of medical education in Germany has banned the lecture from the curriculum of medical education.

February 21st, 2003, is the 80th birthday of a living legend of the traditional German clinical lecture and education – Professor Dr. Nepomuk Zöllner, Emeritus Head of the Medical Policlinic University of Munich.

As a young medical student I heard from my older fellow students that Professor Zöllner's clinical lectures for preclinical and for clinical students are a "must". I followed this advice, went to attend his lecture and recognized the lecture hall was filled up to the last seat. Zöllner appeared and he cast his spell on us. He presented all facts of clinical medicine, challenging and entertaining. Professor Zöllner allowed us students a sight into his world of thought and presented clinical cases in a way of a novel written by Agatha Christie. Zöllner gave without mentioning it directly an example of a sense of duty as professor and clinical

teacher. His lecture was not disposable – neither illness nor jet lag prevented him from teaching his students.

This teaching continued when I was admitted to his staff at the Medical Policlinic. Zöllner had clear priorities: First, the care of the patient, second, teaching his students, and third, keeping an eye on his co-workers.

The personal assistance in the preparation of his lecture or in the care of his patients undoubtedly has enlightened me and I'm very grateful for his clinical and scientific advice. Responsibility for a patient is very personal and can never be transferred to a committee.

Zöllner was outstanding in analyzing scientific papers and he always came to the bottom line. His textbooks were best selling and even other medical specialities, e.g. surgeons, were aware of them.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to congratulate Professor Zöllner, also on behalf of his numerous fellows, friends and colleagues, to his birthday.

Ad multos annos!

Professor Dr. Ursula Gresser
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