

Obituary

Professor Carl Gottfried Schmidt

Prof. Carl Gottfried Schmidt, widely considered the father of medical oncology in Germany, died on 20 December 2003, aged 81 years. In the early 1960s, he was the first physician in Germany to recognise the need to establish medical oncology; he realised that medical oncology had to be driven by basic research, and that a multi- and interdisciplinary concept was required to care for patients with malignant diseases. Driven by this vision, he succeeded in acquiring a wing on the campus of the University Clinic in Essen where he established departments for medical oncology, radiotherapy, tumour cell biology and molecular biology. In 1967, C.G. Schmidt was appointed full Professor and Director of the Department of Oncology and Haematology. He headed this department until 1990.

With the outstanding organisational talents and sheer energy that characterised his entire professional life, C.G. Schmidt was involved in a multitude of national and international organisations. He was President of the German Cancer Society between 1967 and 1978, which

under his leadership was completely restructured. He became a council member of UICC in 1970, and acted as President from 1986 to 1990; he was also President of the EORTC between 1981 and 1984.

In acknowledgement of his vast contribution to the development of oncology, particularly in Germany, he was awarded honorary memberships of the German Cancer Society and the German Society of Haematology and Oncology. In 1968 he received the gold medal of the Accademia Tiberina Roma.

The national and international oncology community has lost a powerful and productive personality. He will be sadly missed.

D.K. Hossfeld
*Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf,
Medizinische Klinik II,
Onkologie und Hämatologie,
Martinistr. 52, D-2046 Hamburg, Germany
E-mail address: d.hossfeld@uke.uni-hamburg.de*