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DESIRE
Development & Epilepsy



Strategies for Innovative Research to Improve Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment In Children with Difficult to Treat Epilepsy

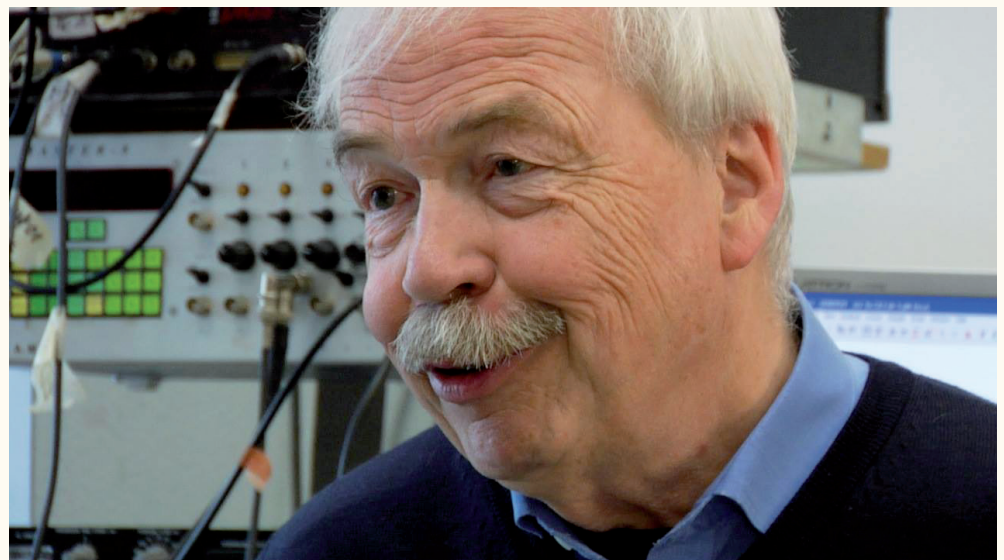
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UWE HEINEMANN :

SPECIAL ISSUE IN MEMORY OF A KEY MEMBER OF THE DESIRE AND EPILEPSY RESEARCH COMMUNITY

BY GIULIANO AVANZINI



Uwe Heinemann passed away on Thursday September 8, the suddenness of his death makes it even more painful to all of us who loved him.

Uwe was educated in Munich, where he graduated in Medicine and carried out his postdoctoral work at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in the Department of Neurophysiology, being awarded a PhD in Experimental Psychology at Oxford University in 1971.

He found his way to the neurosciences at the Max Planck Institute under the mentorship of Hans Lux. He was Professor of Physiology and Pathophysiology at the University of Cologne from 1986 to 1993, when he became Professor of Neurophysiology at the Charit  in Berlin. At the time of the death, he was Senior Professor at the Charit  Neuroscience Research Centre (NWFZ).

His scientific production is familiar to everybody working in the field of epilepsy research.

His major contributions were clarifying the epileptogenic role of neural metabolism and ion homeostasis, and the biological basis of drug resistance, but he also substantially contributed to developing our understanding of the cellular mechanisms underlying learning and memory consolidation, as well as their impairment in epilepsy and various psychiatric disorders.

The importance of his work was acknowledged by the number of awards he received, the most prestigious of which included the Michael Prize for Epilepsy Research (1977 and 1987), the Alfred Hauptmann Prize (1988), the Basic Science AES Award (1992), and the European Epilepsy Award (2008).

ALL THE DESIRE CONSORTIUM PARTNERS AND RESEARCHERS WISH TO PASS OUR MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE HEINEMANN FAMILY.

UWE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. HOWEVER HIS UNIQUE LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTION TO EPILEPSY RESEARCH LIVES ON THROUGH HIS RESEARCH. HIS COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS.

His election to the Presidency of the German Chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) (1993.95), and the conferment of the Ambassador of Epilepsy Award by the ILAE in 1989, bear further witness of his leading role in epileptology. Uwe's scientific activities went hand in hand with his commitment to education, and the many students and collaborators he trained have further contributed to the development of the neurosciences.

He had the special gift of being able to identify and support talented young people by giving them an opportunity to acquire the soundest imprinting and training in the most advanced methods. Many of these have since become leading scientists in their own right, and will ensure the continuity of his teaching to the benefit of future generations of scientists in Europe and the rest of the world.

What most impressed me when I first met him in the early 1980s was his unlimited intellectual generosity which, together with his unbelievably extensive scientific knowledge and gentle character, gave him his unique personality.

This first impression was confirmed and strengthened during our long and warm friendship, and I can see from the many messages I have been receiving that my feelings are shared by many other friends and colleagues. Uwe's death deprives all of us of an outstanding scientist and great man: we will sadly miss him.

Giuliano Avanzini

Some of Uwe Heinemann's most recent publications

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