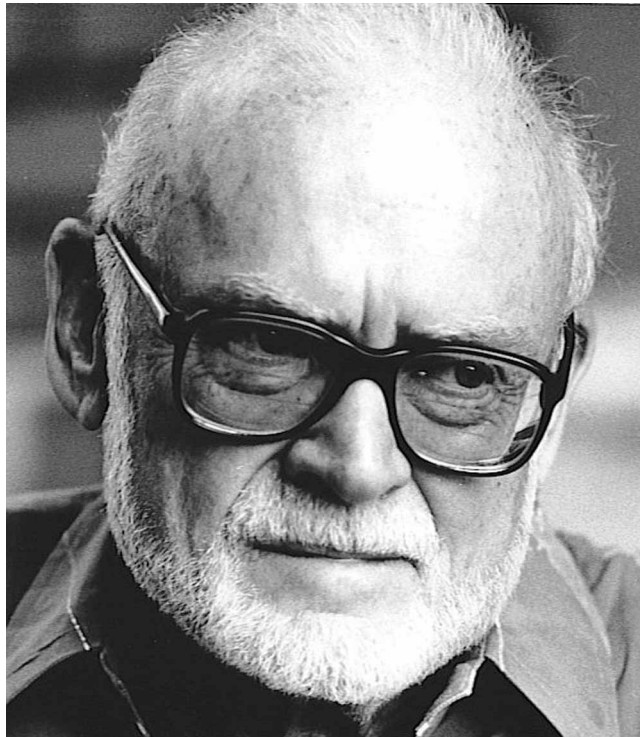


IN MEMORIAM

## **Hannes G. Pauli 1924—2003**



### **A Great Pioneer of Medical Education**

On October 9, 2003, Hannes Pauli, from 1971–1989 professor and director of the Institute of Medical Education (IAE, now IAWF), University of Bern Faculty of Medicine (Switzerland) passed away, after still having been in town on his electric “flyer bike” the day before.

Hannes Pauli attended his undergraduate medical education in Zurich, Bern and Paris and his internships in surgery and gynaecology in several Swiss hospitals. After turning around South America as ship’s doctor he worked for 4 years in New York and Boston in cardiology, pneumology and family medicine.

Back to Switzerland he joined the internal medicine outpatient ambulatory at the University of Bern and focused his research on acid/base metabolism.

Impressed by the high importance of teaching in the US medical schools he founded a “group of young angry men” with some residents who also had spent some years at American university hospitals. Their design of a reform of the Bern undergraduate curriculum was supported by the cantonal education minister who decided to send Hannes Pauli in 1965/66 to Sweden, England, France and the USA to specifically study new trends in medical education at selected innovative medical schools. Due to Hannes’ excellent relations with the charismatic president of the local curriculum committee, Professor Ettore Rossi, practically all new suggestions about curriculum change were implemented, as shortening the preclinical phase, focusing the curriculum on primary care rather than on tertiary specialties, dramatic reduction of lectures in favour of group teaching and bedside block teaching, the curricular integration of 25 peripheral teaching hospitals and 40 general practitioners, introduction of an elective year, of audiovisual self-instruction and of standardized examinations.

Hannes Pauli enjoyed great competence and confidence credibility from patients as well as from the allied health personnel. One of the nurses, known for her illustrative expressiveness, put her endless trust in Hannes into her own words, “I would even let Professor Pauli embroider a gobelin onto my bottom”.

Hannes’ educational credo for a comprehensive bio-psycho-social competence culminated 1978 in detailed project suggestions for Primary Care which finally resulted in the establishment of a unit of General Practice (FIAM) at the Bern Faculty of Medicine (1983). In his private life he gave substantial support to Amnesty International and personally cared for politically persecuted victims of third world countries.

Already in 1971 Hannes Pauli realized that even for a workaholic it was impossible to maintain a high standard of leadership for both a department of internal medicine and the just founded institute of medical education (IAE). Although it was a hard decision for him to take, he abandoned clinical medicine in favour of “Medical Education”. His institute developed quickly, soon became internationally known and from the very beginning stayed in contact with the large medical education centres of the University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Southern California Los Angeles, Michigan State University East Lansing, with the National Board of Medical Examiners in Philadelphia, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the World Health Organization (where Hannes became member and president of the European Advisory Committee on Medical Research EACMR, then member of the Global WHO Advisory Committee on Health Research). When his institute had the status of “WHO Collaborating Centre for the Evaluation of Health Personnel Performance”, it organized a whole series of workshops attended by an international audience of medical educators (“Gurten-Seminars”). With the “Association for Medical Education of Europe” (AMEE) the institute organized in 1976 a large international congress on “Medical Education and Primary Health Care”. The proceedings, edited by Pauli’s associate Horst Noack (1980) became an important reference on

primary care. Until his retirement (1989) Hannes looked intensively after the students who had honoured him with the title “Teacher of the Year” in 1988.

Besides the early biomedical research papers Hannes Pauli has published some 130 papers on Medical Education, was involved in several books and has assisted innumerable persons and committees with his expertise. Several articles deal with basic questions about the comprehension of changing science paradigms, particularly with his worry about the danger of positivistic reductionism in medicine. In one of his last bequests, an analysis-synthesis trilogy in “Education for Health” (Pauli *et al.*, 2000a,b) Hannes has summarized his visions — a great, far beyond medicine reaching interdisciplinary connection of the networking of trivial everyday life events with the intellectual fall of the folds of spiritual purple.

With Hannes Pauli we lost one of the first real pioneers of European post-war Medical Education, an outstanding physician, a warm-hearted, courageous, sensitive person, and a person of high integrity, cosmopolitan culture and truly comprehensive intellect.

Prof. Juerg F. Steiger  
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