Commemoration

Obituary: Erhard Haus, M.D., Ph.D. (September 8, 1926 - June 14, 2013)
(Erhard holding a gift of an hour glass sand clock)

Dr. Erhard Leo Anton Haus was born in Vienna, Austria to Leo Anton and Marianne Haus, and was the grandson of Anton Haus, the last Grand Admiral of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Erhard was educated in internal medicine at the University of Innsbruck and was certified in Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota where he also studied chronobiology and earned his Ph.D. degree, guided by Dr. Franz Halberg, entitled Biological Aspects of Chronopathology. In 1966, Erhard joined the Pathology Staff at St. Paul (Minnesota) Ramsey Hospital and Medical Center, and in 1969 became Chairman of the Department of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology.

Erhard was a pioneer and leading authority of chronobiology who conducted >520 projects involving his Hospital team and collaborators throughout the world. He edited 3 books and authored/co-authored 67 book chapters, >260 journal articles, and >300 abstracts. He was the first to demonstrate the concept of chronotoxicology (susceptibility/resistance rhythmicity to ethanol overdose), and thoroughly researched the chronobiology of therapeutic agents (chronopharmacology/chronotherapeutics), endocrine system, cancer risk and therapy, diagnostic clinical laboratory measures (time-qualified reference values), nutrition/obesity (chrononutrition), cardiovascular disease (chronocardiology), among others, plus synchronizers of circadian rhythms and circadian desynchronization and its consequences. Erhard founded and served as president of the American Association for Medical Chronobiology and Chronotherapeutics and chaired for the World Health Organization the Section on Mechanisms of the International Agency for the Research on Cancer, Working Group on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans in Painters, Fire Fighters, and Shift Workers.

For sure, Erhard was an exceptional leader and role model for students and scholars of medicine, pathology, and chronobiology, but he is also remembered for his great ‘joie de vivre’ and deep love of his wife of 54 years, Geraldine, 9 children, 26 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. He leaves a great void, not only in science, but also in all who knew him, but he lives on through the legacy of his accomplishments and the fond memories of the times and activities shared during his extremely productive, but nonetheless all too brief, 86 years.

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