In Memoriam Prof. Dr. med., Dr. med. h.c., Walter Brendel

After long-lasting severe illness, Walter Brendel died at the age of 67 in the University Hospital of Munich on August 29, 1989. He was born in Karlsruhe, FRG, and graduated from the University of Heidelberg, Medical School in 1948 after returning from World War II in Russia, where he had been seriously wounded. He obtained his doctor degree in Heidelberg in 1949. Thereafter he worked as a physiologist at the Kerkhoff Institute for Cardiac and Circulatory Research of the Max Planck Society in Bad Nauheim from 1951 until 1961 and obtained a PhD in Physiology in 1959 from the University of Giessen. His research topics during this first decade were temperature regulation, physiology and pathophysiology of hypothermia and extracorporeal circulation.

In 1962 he was appointed Head of Experimental Surgery of the Surgical University Clinic of Prof. Rudolf Zenker in Munich, where, together with a small team, he developed the Department of Experimental Surgery, which in 1978 moved into the new facilities of the Institute for Surgical Research at the Klinikum Grosshadern of the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich. With his collaborators and pupils in Surgical Research, Walter Brendel has made a great number of important and some truly spectacular contributions to the various fields of surgical pathophysiology, in particular transplantation, shock research, hemodilution and microcirculation, brain edema and se-
condary brain damage. Since 1974 he was at the forefront of scientific exploration of the potential of shock waves in medicine from which lithotripsy has evolved as a new treatment modality.

In 1967 Walter Brendel became first professor of Experimental Surgery and was given the first chair of Experimental Surgery at the University of Munich. He was an inspiring teacher and an enthusiastic researcher with never ending new ideas on how to tackle problems in medicine, biology and surgery, in particular. He has given basic research training to many of the surgeons and surgical scientists who now hold leading positions in Germany and abroad. Walter Brendel's School of Surgical Research has thus made significant impact on modern surgical sciences. He has published some 500 papers and given lectures in all parts of the world. He was the founder of the Society for Experimental Surgery in Germany and a Founding Member of the European Society for Experimental Surgery. In 1968 he was the President of this Society and a member of its General Committee, whose advice was sought for many years.

Walter Brendel was one of the founders of European Surgical Research and for 18 years one of its editors in chief. The conception and establishment of European Surgical Research as well as its development have been decisively influenced by his foresight and innovative spirit.

Prof. Walter Brendel was awarded many distinctions, among them the honorary doctorate from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1971, the Jubilee Award of the German Society for Surgery in 1977 and the Award for the Advancement of European Sciences in 1985 in recognition of his innovative contributions to the medical application of shock waves. In 1988 he was nominated as the second Honorary Member of the European Society for Surgical Research.

Walter Brendel has invaluable merits for the development and growth of Experimental Research, in particular in Europe. With him, Experimental Surgery and Surgical Research in Germany have lost their Nestor and the Surgical Scientific Community has lost a compassionate and outstanding scientist. His contributions to the medical sciences and to European Surgical Research will live on.

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