Obituary

Pathobiology 1992;60:57-58

Prof. Dr. med. Jacques R. Rüttner

September 13, 1917 - April 13, 1991

M.C.	Med.C.	Hedinger
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Prof. Dr. med. Jacques R. Rüttner

On April 13, 1991, Jacques R. Rüttner, honorary professor at the University of Zurich and longstanding editor and collaborator of the journals which preceded Pathobiology, died at age 73 after a brief illness. For many years, Prof. Rüttner was instrumental in the progressive development of the journals. He did not relinquish his editorial commitment until Pathobiology was established in 1990.

Born September 13, 1917, Prof. Rüttner attended schools in Zurich and graduated from Zurich's medical school in 1943. In 1944, he briefly worked as an assistant physician at the Kantonsspital St. Gallen, first at the Ear Clinic under H. Vetter, and subsequently at the Institute of Pathology under E. Uehlinger. From 1945 to 1946 he worked at Zurich University's Institute of Pathology

under H. von Meyenburg, followed by two years at the Surgical Clinic of the Kantonsspital Winterthur under O. Schürch. His definitive entry into the field of pathology occurred in the autumn of 1948, again at the Institute of Pathology in Zurich. There, he worked closely with A. von Albertini, then first professor of this institute. Prof. von Albertini's interests in general pathology and his subtle differential diagnostic approach within a framework of histopathologic findings were very much in line with Prof. Rüttner's concept of a developmental modern discipline of pathology. When in 1949 an independent Institute of Histopathology with A. von Albertini as its chairman was separated from the Institute of Pathology of Zurich University, it was no surprise that Rüttner became the senior physician, i.e., the prosector, of this new institute. In 1952, he became qualified as a lecturer in general and special pathology. In 1958, he was appointed titular professor. When A. von Albertini retired in 1964, Rüttner was promoted to the position of extraordinary professor and put in charge of the institute. In 1970, the Institute of Histopathology and the Institute of Pathology of Zurich University were reunited into one department. Having been appointed full professor, Rüttner, together with C. Hedinger and G. Zbinden, took over its chair, concentrating his work mostly in the biopsy division and the divisions for experimental pathology. He retired in 1987, yet in the following years continued extensive research on the pneumoconioses, especially on asbestosis.

Prof. Rüttner's contributions to scientific research were impressive indeed. Even his early efforts reflected his special interest in degenerative bone diseases, malignant lymph node processes, as well as liver diseases and, above all, the pneumoconioses. These mostly occupational lung diseases and their consequences attracted his special interest throughout his entire active career and well into his retirement years.

His morphologic research and animal studies led to fundamental new insights into the pathogenesis of pneumoconiosis and the possibilities of early detection. During his retirement years, he focused his main attention on asbestosis and resulting mesotheliomas. Since 1956, as President of the Zurich Collaborative Group for the Study and Combat of Pneumoconioses in Switzerland, he headed a team of researchers which went far beyond the members of the Zurich institute. Furthermore, he was a recognized final authority for investigations of deaths with doubtful involvement of silicosis or other pneumoconioses.

Prof. Rüttner's interests, however, were not only devoted to the specialized areas described above, but also to a variety of aspects of general pathology. Advocating interdisciplinary collaboration was one of his essential goals. Not surprisingly, he was delegated to the Council of the Swiss National Foundation and for many years held the position of President of the Research Commission of the University of Zurich. It was his initiative that brought about the creation of an efficient cancer registry in Zurich. However, he also encouraged medical collaboration beyond European boundaries. Beginning in 1963, for example, he was Secretary General of the International Society of Geographical Pathology, and subsequently an advisor for medical affairs related to Swiss aid to developing countries, in particular in Tanzania, Africa.

Professor Rüttner's first contacts with the Karger Publishing House in Basel date back to his work under A. von Albertini, who at that time was the editor of the *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für allgemeine Pathologie und Bakteriologie*. During these years, Rüttner provided editorial assistance. When the journal was converted to *Pathologia et Microbiologia* in 1960, he initially became one of the four and later one of the two main editors. When in 1970 the scope of this journal was broadened and the title changed to *Experimental Cell Biology*, he initially remained

in his position as one of the two main editors. But when the editorial board was enlarged in 1976, he became editor of the pathology section. As mentioned above, Prof. Rüttner retired from his many years of meritorious editorial work when, in 1990, the journal *Experimental Cell Biology* was merged with the journal *Pathology and Immunopathology Research* under the new title, *Pathobiology*.

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