Peter Dukor, MD (1937–1995)

A.L.

de Weck

Gerimmun Foundation, Allergy Research Laboratory, Fribourg, Switzerland

Peter Dukor was a man outside of the common mold, and he was known in broad circles of medical research, allergology, immunology, molecular biology and pharmaceutical industry worldwide.

He was born on January 28, 1937 as the only son of a Swiss mother from the Emmental and of a psychiatrist in Basle, a descendant of a family originally coming from Russia. He pursued his medical studies in Basle, where he obtained his MD title in 1961. He became soon acquainted with medical and immunological research, working with J. F. A. P. Miller on the role of the thymus at the Chester Beatty Institute in London in the early 1960s. Soon thereafter, he entered the division of biological research at Ciba-Geigy in Basle, where he worked for almost 20 years. He managed the rather seldom feat to become, on the one hand, an effective industrial research manager and on the other hand, a scientist in his own right, with a broad range of interests and a keen awareness of the future being shaped around him. He became widely known in international allergy and immunology academic circles, not only for his personal work published in the best journals, but also for his ability to perceive new ideas, to foster young people and to attract and shape many collaborative projects. His name became particularly associated with the development of regulatory cytokines and with the immunological properties of muramylpeptides. Peter Dukor became director of the Sandoz Research Institute in Vienna, to which he soon gave unforgettable impulses. On the one hand, he developed strong ties with and gave hospitality to several academic groups from the Universities of Vienna and Budapest. On the other hand, he initiated a number of successful scientific and drug development ventures.

He was an extraordinary and unconventional individual because he combined in his personality the intellectual ability and enthusiasm of a gifted scientist, the fantasy of an artist and the pragmatic sense of an industrial manager. He was a man with visions, early recognizing the significance

of new approaches, such as immune regulation, cytokines, molecular biology, human genetics and xenotransplantation. His initiatives will in part mark the development of Sandoz activities, now Novartis, well into the 21st century.

Peter Dukor was for 12 years Executive Secretary of the Collegium Internationale AUergologicum and coeditor of numerous scientific journals and series, in particular Progress in Allergy, this journal, International Archives of Allergy and Immunology, and the International Journal of Immunopharmacology. He was a key figure in the International Society of Immunopharmacology and was instrumental in the organisation of its last congress in Budapest. But even more important than the scientist or the manager was the human being with his talents, his charm and his warm personality. It was always a peculiar pleasure to talk to him, to spend an evening in a pleasant atmosphere or to undertake something new or out of the ordinary. Peter leaves many thankful friends around the world. He passed away in Vienna on July 11, 1995, after a short disease fought with much courage.

KAMGEM

E-Mail karger < a karger.ch Fax+41 6) 306 12 34 <http://www.karger.ch>

© 1997 S.KargerAG, Basel 1018-2438/97/1133-0023 \$12.00/0

This article is also accessible online at: <http://BioMedNet.com/karger>

International Archives of

Allergy™, Immunology