Profile

This issue of *ORL* is dedicated to the world-renowned pathologist Imrich Friedmann, Emeritus Professor of Pathology, University of London, who will shortly be celebrating his 95th birthday. Numerous friends and colleagues have dedicated articles relating to areas that are of special interest to him.

Imrich Friedmann was born on June 4, 1907, in Spisska Nova Ves, Czechoslovakia. He completed his medical studies at the University of Prague with a Doctor's degree and then joined the Department of Pathology of the Kosice State Hospital as a resident intern.

After qualifying as a Specialist in Pathology he became Pathologist-in-Chief at the Bata Hospital in Zlin from 1936 to 1939. His appointment came to an abrupt end due to pressure from the Nazi regime, forcing him to emigrate to England and repeat his medical examinations. From 1942 to 1944 he was engaged as a pathologist at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and at St. George's Hospital Medical School as well as at the East Ham Memorial Hospital in London. In 1944 he volunteered for the First Medical Mission that reached liberated Kosice in early February 1945. He remained there as head of the Department of Pathology at the University of Kosice until he returned to London in 1949.

Back in England he joined the world-famous Institute of Laryngology and Otology as an Assistant Pathologist and subsequently became Director of Pathology during the years 1952–1972. In 1973 he became a Research Fellow at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories and an Honorary Consultant Histopathologist at the Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow from where he only recently retired as Emeritus Consultant Histopathologist.

The histopathology of otorhinolaryngological diseases has interested Imrich Friedmann throughout his professional life. In fact, he is the only specialized pathologist to have dedicated himself to diseases of the petrous bone. This was a task that, until then, had been dealt with exclusively by ear, nose and throat (ENT) physicians such as Manasse, Wittmaack, Altmann, Kelemen and Schuknecht, to name just a few. Imrich Friedmann introduced new histological and histochemical methods for investigating the histopathology of the petrous bone. He was the first to use tissue cultures for basic experimental research and introduced the electron-microscopic mode of research to our specialized field. Until recently his research activities continued to cover almost all aspects of experimental otology and the clinical histopathology of organs within our field of medicine. His publications have always been characterized by a continuous search for consistency, in contrast to the short-lived Case Reports which he so dislikes.

He published a book entitled *Pathology of the Ear* [Blackwell, London, 1974], edited volume 1, *Nose, Throat and Ears*, of the book entitled *Systemic Pathology*, 3rd edition [Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1986], co-edited the book *Diseases of the Head and Neck – An Atlas of Histopathology* [Thieme, Stuttgart, 1987] and coauthored three books, *Pathology and Granulomas of the Nose and Paranasal Sinuses* [Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1982], *Granulomas and Neoplasms of the Larynx* [Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1988] and *Pathology of the Ear* [Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1993]. He was a member of the World Health Organization's Committee on *Histological Typing of Tumours of the Upper Respiratory Tract and Ear* [Springer, Berlin, 1991].

Imrich Friedmann constantly sought close contact with ORL clinicians and was a well-known participant at ENT congresses around the world. Until recently, he was an active member of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum. We will never forget his constantly helpful, kind-hearted and nondidactic comments and advice. He very much enjoyed contact with young clinicians and researchers because of their feedback and modern impulses. Thankfully, many of us (including the undersigned) were able to appreciate his active, charming and always helpful contributions. Imrich Friedmann enjoyed taking part in the enthusiasm of youth and always offered an experienced hand in cooperation and support. Even today, many institutions still seek his advice and judgement on diagnostic and experimental problems, as

his active interest was the development of molecular-biological research. Many pathologists and clinicians are deeply indebted to him for his support, expertise and assistance in important parts of their careers, and they still continue to contact him regularly for his critical advice.

The personality of Imrich Friedmann – the first and, to date, the last pathologist enthusiastically dedicated to the special problems in our field – has been honored with numerous national and international distinctions and awards. Though there are too many to list, they all came from national and international universities, academies and specialized societies, the last in 1999 as Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in London. Imrich Friedmann was editor and coeditor of many international ENT journals. He has been an Editor of the *ORL: Journal for Oto-Rhino-Laryngology and Its Related Specialties* (Basel) since 1971, and Emeritus Advisor in Pathology of the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* (London). He is also on the Board of Editors of the *Annals of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology* (St. Louis, Mo.).

Since 1943, Imrich Friedmann has been accompanied, cared for and supported by his loving wife, Joan Margret. Joan has always worked and still works today as the constant factor 'behind the scenes', looking after their beautiful home in Stanmore and – throughout almost 60 years of married life – acting as lector of his innumerable publications and lectures.

Imrich Friedmann loved to play tennis and was a passionate skier. Typical of many physicians, throughout his life he enjoyed a deep interest in classical music, playing the violin, either alone at home or in an orchestra, and he is very proud to have played together with Karel Ancerl and Sir Colin Davis.

ENT physicians and pathologists throughout the world are extremely grateful to Imrich Friedmann and congratulate him on his 95th birthday. Although his age has demanded some health-related concessions Imrich has remained well informed and continues to be interested in basic research in our field of medicine. He must, however, find great satisfaction having been a witness to and a key player in the transformation of the area he once called 'the apparently barren regions of the temporal bone'. This field is now teeming with new ideas and new methods of investigation and surgical treatment of the ear 'so that all may hear'.

Wolfgang Arnold, Munich
 Alfio Ferlito, Udine