

In memoriam of Prof. Dr. med. Werner Wichmann, MD

Frank Mosler¹

¹Department of Diagnostic, Interventional and Pediatric Radiology, Inselspital Bern, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Professor Dr. med. Werner Wichmann, honorary member of the Swiss Society of Neuroradiology (SGNR), passed away on 26.01.2023 in presence of his family. The public funeral service took place on Friday, 17 March 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in the large church in Fluntern, Zurich.



Prof. Dr. med. Werner Wichmann, MD

May this serve as a living tribute to his memory

Werner Wichmann played a key role in shaping the emergence of the Swiss Society of Neuroradiology SGNR and the discipline itself. As an examiner and commission president, he was committed for many years to the standards to be met by a person working in clinical neuroradiology and at the same time was able to build trust in the next generation. In his acceptance speech for the award of honorary membership in 2022, Werner Wichmann summed up as follows:

"...Through the fruitful cooperation of companies,

basic researchers, engineers and physicians, astonishing progress has been achieved over the last four decades. Through these, our discipline is in constant mutual exchange with almost all other disciplines in medicine and beyond. This is of course a great privilege of our discipline, but it also offers a certain danger of being appropriated by other disciplines and even marginalized in the end. I believe that a relevant success factor of our Society has been to find the right mix of cooperation and awareness of the importance of one's own research discipline. It has been a great honor for me to accompany this discipline together with you from its beginnings to becoming an integral part of primary health care. When looking into a possible future, the first thing you realize is that you will probably no longer be able to personally accompany it in the same time frame as the past decades. The new generation, in which I have confidence, will now have to face unknown challenges. Needless to say, I will not be able to offer you any solutions or advice personally. Except, perhaps, that we are among those who most directly serve the people in this field of tension between research, commercial implementation and clinical application, and thus also have an obligation and the right to confidently represent our point of view in the future...."

The SGNR loses an outstanding personality and mourns the loss of one of its great members. On behalf of all SGNR members, the SGNR Board extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

The SGNR will honor his memory at its general meeting, which will take place during this year's SGNR annual conference on Thursday, 8 June 2023 in Zurich.

Memberships by Prof. Dr. med. Werner Wichmann

Prof. Dr. med. Werner Wichmann was a member of the following medical societies:

1. Swiss Society of Neuroradiology (SGNR) (Several years on the Board of Directors and hon-

- orary member)
- 2. German Society of Neuroradiology (DGNR)
 - 3. Swiss Society of Radiology (SGR) (Honorary member)
 - 4. European Society of Radiology (ESR)
 - 5. Swiss Medical Association (FMH)
 - 6. Medical Association of the Canton of Zurich (AGZ)
 - 7. Zurich Society of Neurologists (ZNG)

Scientific contributions by Prof. Dr. med. Werner Wichmann

Without claiming to be exhaustive, we have compiled a list of the most important scientific publications by Prof. Dr. med. Werner Wichmann.

Publications

- 1. Täumer R, Rohde N, Wichmann W, Röver J. Studium der elektrischen Potentiale der Netzhaut mit der ERG-, EOG- und DC-ERG-Technik. In: Jaeger W, ed. Peripherie Retina. Munich: J.F. Bergmann-Verlag; 1977:743-746.
- 2. Wichmann W, Foerster EC, Otto R. Ein neues Kunststoffpolster (Elastomer) als Vorlaufsstrecke für Sonographie. Ultraschall Med 1984;5(05):265-267. (In De). DOI: 10.1055/s-2007-1012105.
- 3. Valavanis A, Schubiger O, Wichmann W. Classification of brain arteriovenous malformation nidus by magnetic resonance imaging. Acta Radiol Suppl 1986;369:86-89. (In eng) (<http://europepmc.org/abstract/MED/2980620>).
- 4. Boltshauser E, Schinzel A, Wichmann W, Haller D, Valavanis A. Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease: identification of heterozygotes with magnetic resonance imaging? Helv Paediatr Acta 1987;42(4):337-9. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/3443555>).
- 5. DVORAK J, PANJABI M, GERBER M, WICHMANN W. CT-Functional Diagnostics of the Rotatory Instability of Upper Cervical Spine: 1. An Experimental Study on Cadavers. Spine 1987;12(3):197-205. (https://journals.lww.com/spinejournal/Fulltext/1987/04000/CT_Functional_Diagnostics_of_the_Rotatory.1.aspx).
- 6. Schubiger O, Valavanis A, Wichmann W. Growth-mechanism of giant intracranial aneurysms; demonstration by CT and MR imaging. Neuroradiology 1987;29(3):266-271. DOI: 10.1007/BF00451765.
- 7. Wichmann W, Valavanis A, Haller D. Zur Anwendung der Hochfeld-Kernspintomographie in der Neuroradiologie. Erfahrungen mit 2000 Untersuchungen. Schweiz Med Wochenschr 1987;117(47):1841-52.
- 8. Wolfensberger M, Kikinis R, Schmid S, Wichmann W. Der Beitrag der Computertomographie zur Klassifikation von Hypopharynx- und Larynxkarzinomen. Laryngol Rhinol Otol 1987;66(2):84-7.
- 9. Boltshauser E, Schinzel A, Wichmann W, Haller D, Valavanis A. Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease: identification of heterozygotes with magnetic resonance imaging? Hum Genet 1988;80(4):393-4. DOI: 10.1007/BF00273659.
- 10. Wichmann W, Schubiger O, Valavanis A, Kasdaglis K. Zur kernspintomographischen Diagnostik von Mikroadenomen der Hypophyse: Vergleich MRT, CT und OP. RöFo-Fortschritte auf dem Gebiet der Röntgenstrahlen und der bildgebenden Verfahren: © Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart· New York; 1988:239-244.
- 11. Boltshauser E, Yalcinkaya C, Wichmann W, Reutter F, Prader A, Valavanis A. MRI in Cockayne syndrome type I. Neuroradiology 1989;31:276-277.
- 12. Müller FA, Hänni PE, Wichmann W, Fierz W, Dürsteler MR. Cerebrospinal fluid immunoglobulins and multiple sclerosis: correspondence with magnetic resonance imaging and visually evoked potential changes. Archives of neurology 1989;46(4):367-371.
- 13. Steinlin M, Boltshauser E, Steinmann B, Wichmann W, Niemeyer G. Hyperprolinaemia type I and white matter disease: coincidence or causal relationship. European journal of pediatrics 1989;149:40-42.
- 14. Werder E, Zachmann M, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Neurohypophyseal ectopy in growth hormone insufficiency. Hormone Research in Paediatrics 1989;31(5-6):210-212.
- 15. Huss R, Wichmann W, Greminger P. Visuseinschränkung, Libidoverlust, Kopfschmerzen. Schweiz Rundsch Med Prax 1990;79(44):1344-6.
- 16. Siegel AM, Wieser HG, Wichmann W, Yasargil GM. Relationships between MR-imaged total amount of tissue removed, resection scores of specific mediobasal limbic subcompartments and clinical outcome following selective amygdalohippocampectomy. Epilepsy Res 1990;6(1):56-65. DOI: 10.1016/0920-1211(90)90009-k.
- 17. Waespe W, Wichmann W. Oculomotor disturbances during visual-vestibular interaction in Wallenberg's lateral medullary syndrome. Brain 1990;113(3):821-846.
- 18. Schefer S, Valavanis A, Wichmann W. Morphology and classification of cerebral cavernomas on MRI. MRT-Morphologie und Klassifikation der zerebralen Kavernome. Radiologe;(Germany, FR) 1991;31(6).
- 19. Schroth G, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Blood-brain-barrier disruption in acute Wernicke encephalopathy: MR findings. Journal of computer assisted tomography 1991;15(6):1059-1061.
- 20. Schroth G, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Aneurysm of the lingual artery: Endovascular treatment. Neuroradiology 1991;33:451-452.
- 21. Wichmann W, Schroth G, Schefer S, Valavanis

- A. Hochauflösende Kernspintomographie in der Neuroradiologie: Struktur der Hirnrinde und Bandscheibe. *Klin Neuroradiol* 1991;2:83-90. 22. Wichmann W, Schubiger O, v Deimling A, Schenker C, Valavanis A. Neuroradiology of central neurocytoma. *Neuroradiology* 1991;33:143-148.
23. Yaşargil MG, Von Ammon K, von Deimling A, Valavanis A, Wichmann W, Wiestler OD. Central neurocytoma: histopathological variants and therapeutic approaches. *Journal of neurosurgery* 1992;76(1):32-37.
24. Massenkeil G, Wichmann W, Krummenacher F, Rhyner K. Reversible rückenmarkskompression durch extramedulläre blutbildungsherde bei thalassämie. *DMW-Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift* 1993;118(04):100-106.
25. Ruetschle M, Schroth G, Wichmann W. MRI and CT diagnostics in acute cerebral tuberculosis. Bildgebende Diagnostik der akuten zerebralen Tuberkulose. *RoeFo-Fortschritte auf dem Gebiete der Roentgenstrahlen und der Nuklearmedizin* (Germany) 1993;159(5).
26. Schenker C, Meier D, Wichmann W, Boesiger P, Valavanis A. Age distribution and iron dependency of the T2 relaxation time in the globus pallidus and putamen. *Neuroradiology* 1993;35:119-124.
27. Schmitt S, Wichmann W, Martin E, Zachmann M, Schoenle E. Pituitary stalk thickening with diabetes insipidus preceding typical manifestations of Langerhans cell histiocytosis in children. *European journal of pediatrics* 1993;152:399-401.
28. Schuknecht B, Huisman T, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. MAGNETRESONANZANGIOGRAPHIE IN DER NEURORADIOLOGIE. INDIKATIONEN UND ANWENDUNGEN. *Radiologe* 1993;33(2):75-80. 29. Wichmann W, Wiestler O, Valavanis A, Kleihues P, Brustle O. Correlation of postmortem MR-analyses with histopathology in patients with AIDS. *Schweiz Arch Neurolo Psychiatr* 1993;144:37-8.
30. Boltshauser E, Schmitt B, Wichmann W, Valavanis A, Sailer H, Yonekawa Y. Cerebellomedullary compression in recessive craniometaphyseal dysplasia. *Pediatric Neurology* 1994;11(2):178.
31. Brugieres P, Gaston A, Degryse H, et al. Randomised double blind trial of the safety and efficacy of two gadolinium complexes (Gd-DTPA and Gd-DOTA). *Neuroradiology* 1994;36:27-30.
32. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Idiopathic, herpetic, and HIV-associated facial nerve palsies: abnormal MR enhancement patterns. *American journal of neuroradiology* 1994;15(3):479-485. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8334325/pdf/8197944.pdf>).
33. Wieser HG, Wang J, Panayiotou P, et al. Seizure occurrence, EEG, and magnetic resonance imaging findings in 61 patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. *Journal of Epilepsy* 1994;7(2):70-75. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0002-9394\(14\)71178-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0002-9394(14)71178-X).
34. Chen JM, Moll C, Wichmann W, Kurrer MO, Fisch U. Magnetic resonance imaging and intraoperative frozen sections in intratemporal facial schwannomas. *Otology & Neurotology* 1995;16(1):68-74.
35. Landau K, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. The missing temporal crescent. *American journal of ophthalmology* 1995;119(3):345-349. ([https://www.ajo.com/article/S0002-9394\(14\)71178-X/pdf](https://www.ajo.com/article/S0002-9394(14)71178-X/pdf)). 36. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Sartoretti C, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Anatomy and pathology with the MRI of the parotid gland. *Radiologe* 1995;35(11):848-865.
37. Brändle P, Sartoretti-Schefer S, Böhmer A, Wichmann W, Fisch U. Correlation of MRI, clinical, and electroneuronographic findings in acute facial nerve palsy. *Otology & Neurotology* 1996;17(1):154-161.
38. Gutling E, Isenmann S, Wichmann W. Electrophysiology in the locked-in-syndrome. *Neurology* 1996;46(4):1092-1101.
39. Isenmann S, Zimmermann D, Wichmann W, Moll C. Tuberculoma mimicking meningioma of the falx cerebri. PCR diagnosis of mycobacterial DNA from formalin-fixed tissue. *Clinical neuropathology* 1996;15(3):155-158.
40. Rutishauser J, Böni-Schnetzler M, Böni J, et al. A novel point mutation in the translation initiation codon of the pre-pro-vasopressin-neurophysin II gene: cosegregation with morphological abnormalities and clinical symptoms in autosomal dominant neurohypophyseal diabetes insipidus. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* 1996;81(1):192-198.
41. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Brändle P, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Intensity of MR contrast enhancement does not correspond to clinical and electroneurographic findings in acute inflammatory facial nerve palsy. *American journal of neuroradiology* 1996;17(7):1229-1236. (<https://www.ajnr.org/content/ajnr/17/7/1229.full.pdf>).
42. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. [Inflammatory facial paralysis in MRI. An overview]. *Radiologe* 1996;36(11):890-6. DOI: 10.1007/s001170050156.
43. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. [Inflammatory diseases of the spinal cord and spinal nerve roots in the MRI]. *Radiologe* 1996;36(11):897-913. DOI: 10.1007/s001170050157.
44. Schuknecht B, Simmen D, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. MR identification of carotid artery involvement in septic cavernous sinus thrombosis.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NEURORADIOLOGY 1996;2(3):290-295.

45. Schurch B, Wichmann W, Rossier A. Post-traumatic syringomyelia (cystic myelopathy): a prospective study of 449 patients with spinal cord injury. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry* 1996;60(1):61-67. DOI: 10.1136/jnnp.60.1.61.
46. Wichmann W. Correction of high myopia by implantation of minus-power intraocular lenses in phakic eyes. *J Refract Surg* 1996;12(6):672-3. DOI: 10.3928/1081-597X-19960901-03.
47. Fechner PU, Wichmann W. Intraocular use of hyaluronidase to dissolve sodium hyaluronic acid. *J Refract Surg* 1997;13(6):502-3. DOI: 10.3928/1081-597X-19970901-05.
48. Kotzot D, Schlegel C, Wichmann W, Schinzel A. Escher-Hirt syndrome. *Clin Dysmorphol* 1997;6(4):315-21. DOI: 10.1097/00019605-199710000-00003.
49. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Blattler T, Wichmann W. Spinal MRI in vacuolar myelopathy, and correlation with histopathological findings. *Neuroradiology* 1997;39(12):865-9. DOI: 10.1007/s002340050523.
50. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Scherler M, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Contrast-enhanced MR of the facial nerve in patients with posttraumatic peripheral facial nerve palsy. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 1997;18(6):1115-25. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9194439>).
51. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Wichmann W, Aguzzi A, Valavanis A. MR differentiation of adamantinous and squamous-papillary craniopharyngiomas. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 1997;18(1):77-87. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9010523>).
52. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Optic neuritis-Characteristic magnetic resonance imaging features and differential diagnosis. *International Journal of Neuroradiology* 1997;3(5):417-427.
53. Wichmann W, Von Ammon K, Fink U, Weik T, Yasargil GM. Aneurysm clips made of titanium: magnetic characteristics and artifacts in MR. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 1997;18(5):939-44. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9159374>).
54. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Aguzzi A, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. Gangliogliomas-Correlation between appearance on magnetic resonance imaging and tumor histology. *International Journal of Neuroradiology* 1998;4(5):357-365.
55. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Kollias S, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. T2-weighted three-dimensional fast spin-echo MR in inflammatory peripheral facial nerve palsy. *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* 1998;19(3):491-5. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9541305>).
56. Wieser H, Hajek M, Constantinopol D, Siegel A, Yonekawa Y, Wichmann W. Symptomatische Epilepsien bei Läsionen des Hirnstamms, des Dienzephalons und des Thalamus. *Klinische Neurophysiologie* 1998;29(01):10-21.
57. Fandino J, Yonekawa Y, Wichmann WW, Roth P. Extradural vertebral artery dissecting aneurysm causing subarachnoid haemorrhage. *J Clin Neurosci* 1999;6(3):245-7. DOI: 10.1016/s0967-5868(99)90513-1.
58. Fechner PU, Haubitz I, Wichmann W, Wulff K. Worst-Fechner biconcave minus power phakic iris-claw lens. *J Refract Surg* 1999;15(2):93-105. DOI: 10.3928/1081-597X-19990301-04.
59. Sartoretti-Schefer S, Kollias S, Wichmann W, Valavanis A. 3D T2-weighted fast spin-echo MRI sialography of the parotid gland. *Neuroradiology* 1999;41(1):46-51. DOI: 10.1007/s002340050704.
60. Siegfried J, Wellis G, Scheib S, et al. [Palliative treatment of brain metastases with gamma knife]. *Ther Umsch* 2001;58(7):413-8. DOI: 10.1024/0040-5930.58.7.413.
61. Wichmann W. Reflexions about imaging technique and examination protocol 2. MR-examination protocol. *Eur J Radiol* 2004;49(1):6-7. DOI: 10.1016/j.ejrad.2003.10.010.
62. Wichmann W, Muller-Forell W. Anatomy of the visual system. *Eur J Radiol* 2004;49(1):8-30. DOI: 10.1016/j.ejrad.2003.11.001.
63. Bosch MM, Wichmann WW, Boltshauser E, Landau K. Optic nerve sheath meningiomas in patients with neurofibromatosis type 2. *Arch Ophthalmol* 2006;124(3):379-85. DOI: 10.1001/archopht.124.3.379.
64. Valavanis A, Wichmann W. Neuroradiologie: Forschung und klinischer Alltag. *Swiss Medical Forum*: EMH Media; 2006:25-27.
65. Wichmann W. Neuroradiologie zerebraler Gliome bei Erwachsenen - Kriterien in Diagnostik und Verlaufskontrolle. *Onkologie* 2007;05:13 - 15.
66. Wichmann W, Schmid K, Waespe W. Huhn oder Ei? *Swiss Medical Forum*: EMH Media; 2007:304-306.
67. Gisler V, Schaer D, Wichmann W, Kerl K, Franzen D. [Not a tropical, but a non the less exotic fever]. *Praxis (Bern 1994)* 2013;102(16):999-1003. DOI: 10.1024/1661-8157/a001378.
68. Petersen JA, Wichmann WW, Weber KP. The pivotal sign of CANVAS. *Neurology* 2013;81(18):1642-3. DOI: 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182a9f435.
69. Tarnutzer AA, Wichmann W, Straumann D, Bockisch CJ. The cerebellar nodulus: perceptual and ocular processing of graviceptive input. *Ann Neurol* 2015;77(2):343-7. DOI: 10.1002/ana.24329.
70. Gruter BE, Pangalu A, Landau K, Wichmann W. Orbital Cellulitis with Apparent Thrombosis of the Left Cavernous Sinus and Periocular Abscess Formation. *Clin Neuroradiol* 2017;27(3):379-382. DOI: 10.1007/s00062-017-0563-2.
71. Zehnder S, Wildberger H, Hanson JVM,

- et al. Retinal Ganglion Cell Topography in Patients With Visual Pathway Pathology. *J Neuroophthalmol* 2018;38(2):172-178. DOI: 10.1097/WNO.0000000000000589.
72. Losa M, Carta MC, Frontzek K, Krayenbuhl N, Wichmann W, Rushing EJ. An Infratentorial Tumor in a 44-Year-Old Female Patient. *Brain Pathol* 2019;29(1):145-146. DOI: 10.1111/bpa.12684.
73. Fierz FC, Landau K, Kottke R, et al. The "Eyelet Sign" as an MRI Clue for Inflammatory Brown Syndrome. *J Neuroophthalmol* 2022;42(1):115-120. DOI: 10.1097/WNO.0000000000001237.
74. Kienzler JC, Hidalgo TE, Wichmann W, Magagna-Poveda A, Fandino J. Lumbar Epidural Cavernous Hemangioma: A Case Report and Review of the Literature. *Cureus* 2023;15(1):e33677. DOI: 10.7759/cureus.33677.
75. <https://www.rnrglatt.ch/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Publikationen-Wichmann-W.pdf>
76. <https://www.rnrglatt.ch/team/werner-wichmann/>
77. <https://saez.ch/article/doi/saez.2023.21589>
Schweiz Ärzteztg. 2023;104(12):20

Personal experience of the author

My personal experience with Prof. Werner Wichmann, MD, originates from the period 2015 to 2017 in the Clinic of Neuroradiology at the University Hospital Zurich (USZ). I had the good fortune to work with Prof. Dr. med. Wichmann at the USZ. In our daily meetings I got to know him as an always helpful, humble, and very approachable person. All his efforts were dedicated to his family. He was a family man who drew his almost inexhaustible energy from the knowledge that he was needed. He felt good at the thought that he could contribute something for his family, for his colleagues and for all those who worked with him. One could get the impression that he was somehow not thinking about himself at all. His patients and their needs have always been his top priority. He was an excellent and very patient teacher, and I am very grateful for all of what I could learn from him. Thank you very much for your good advice, your dedication, and your time. Farewell my friend wherever you are now.

Frank Mosler
Associate Editor Swiss Journal of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine