

## Obituary

Prof. Dr. Günter Vogel, 11. 12. 1934 – 4. 1. 2011

The Danubian League lost a remarkable man, a person of great character who was tied with the Danubian League since its foundation in Linz in 1983. He served as the President of the Society from June 2004 to May 2009. He studied medicine at the University of Leipzig and at the Medical Academy of Erfurt where got his MD in 1962. In 1968 he specialized in Internal Medicine. At the Medical Academy of Erfurt he obtained his PhD on a haemostaseological topic and served as a Professor for Internal Medicine/Haemostaseology from 1984 to 1992. From 1993 to 2000 he was Professor for Internal Medicine at the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena and Head of the First Medical Clinic in Erfurt where he retired in 2000 still continuing for another 5 years as Head of the Clinical Research Unit for Haemostaseology of the Friedrich-Schiller University with the seat in Erfurt.

He had to start as a nurse as he was not admitted for political reason to study medicine at the early beginning. Together with Markwardt, Glusa and Klöcking he was able to maintain the academic institution of Haemostaseology in Erfurt which was closed after his retirement.

He was among the nucleus of the Danubian League in the early days together with Orhan Ulutin, Fritz Markwardt, Ibolya Nagy and others who all together ignoring the iron fence tried to exchange methodology experience and lived a big friendship across borders. His satisfaction was great when he saw the iron fence falling down, especially when one knows how he suffered under the dictatorial regime.

In our history we have a number of anecdotes how the founder and first Secretary General of the League, Helmut Vinazzer, together with his friends was managing to trick the communistic authorities. Whenever I talked to Günter during the last few years he always expressed his deep appreciation to Helmut Vinazzer's initiative in the foundation of the Danubian League bringing so much quality to his scientific life and in particular to the great hospitality and friendship. When I phoned him last time before Christmas he promised to do his best to attend our next meeting in Romania. Günter Vogel died on the sequelae of a mild stroke in November 2010, suffering from a variety of complications lately dying on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Günter Vogel wrote 8 books, the last one on the history of haemophilia published in 2007 (our president Danijela Mikovics and I got a personally dedicated specimen recently), 187 original articles, presented 225 lectures and hold 3 patents.

Günter Vogel was a very nice person with a deep sense of humour, a high quality character and a deep understanding of humanity, showing sense of family with his beloved granddaughter (picture). We will greatly miss his sincere and warm personal interaction.

*Helmut Sinzinger*