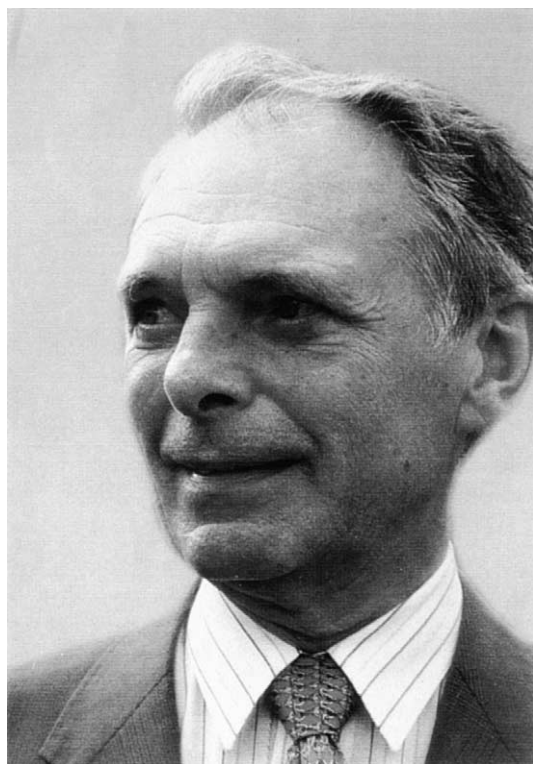




OBITUARY

**In Memoriam: Professor Dr. Helmut Vinazzer
(1923–2000)**

The haemostasis research community has lost a remarkable man when Helmut Vinazzer unexpectedly passed away on October 27th 2000 when being on holidays in Papeete, Tahiti. He was an outstanding all over the country respected expert of thrombosis and haemostasis combining clinical findings with laboratory findings on the basis of a large number of experiments and huge experience. Helmut was a well respected member of the Editorial Board of Thrombosis Research. He obtained his MD at difficult times 1946 in Graz, and specialized in internal medicine at the University of Vienna 1953. His depth of knowledge and understanding of coagulation together with the

enthusiasm for innovative research he learned from his teacher Karl Fellingner (who by the way passed away at the age of 97 years a few days after Helmut's death) were the driving forces behind. Although earning his money in a private practice since 1954, he started a coagulation laboratory in Linz in 1959. Scientific work done there over the weekends and during nights in cooperation with a great many colleagues and friends from all around the world resulted in his habilitation (1970) and associate professorship (1976) at the University of Vienna. All the scientific tests ever leaving his lab were performed by him in person.

Beside books, manuals etc. he published 108 original articles, the last one in 1999. He was publishing his results in established journals, with a mean impact factor of >1 per article. The preferred journal where he published was Thrombosis Research with a total of 23 articles between 1976 and 1999. Before he closed his lab at the end of last year he finalized extensive yet unpublished work on the modification of fibrinogen. Thereafter, he donated the whole equipment to labs in Romania, Bulgaria and Poland.

When he realized the scientific and humanitarian problems the scientists in the Eastern former communistic countries encountered behind the iron fence, it became his major interest. He achieved this a couple of years later (1975) with the foundation of the Danubian League against Thrombosis and Hemorrhagic Disorders. He organized equipment, travelling grants, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and money, sometimes to a large extent also from his own private pocket. The climate of friendship without borders across borders he created was unique. Helmut received a great number of honorary memberships in particular of scientific societies from Hungary to Russia, from East Germany to Cze-

chia. In April 2000 he was elected as honorary president of the Danubian League against Thrombosis and Hemorrhagic Disorders and a poster prize kindly supported by Baxter was named after him.

Helmut was an outstanding person with a very rare combination of scientific skills, deep clinical understanding and knowledge of coagulation, a careful organizer with an unique human talent in bringing people together, a man with a rare high quality character and deep understanding of humanity. He was a well recognized dedicated and gifted multilingual lecturer (Spanish, English, French, German), a stimulating discussant

with a high commitment for research, an educated, cultured gentlemen. He will dearly be missed by his wife, Dr. Gertraude Vinazzer, and his son Aldo, but also especially by his many friends in South America, the Mediterranean and the former Eastern countries, who will readily tell you that Helmut was very special.

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