



Hans Creutzig, MD 1944–1987

On Friday, July 17, 1987, Prof. Dr. Hans Creutzig died at 42 years of age, after a long struggle with cancer. Dr. Creutzig was born on November 14, 1944, in Springe/Deister, West Germany. He attended medical school in Hannover, obtaining his M.D. degree in 1970. After completing his internship at the University of Hannover, he became a resident in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Medical School of Hannover. In 1974, he became Assistant Director of that department and was appointed Professor of Nuclear Medicine in 1978.

Hans Creutzig's contributions to nuclear medicine covered a wide range, including scintigraphic diagnosis of intrahepatic masses and a better understanding of the fundamental principles of bone scintigraphy. In addition to his scientific contributions in nuclear medicine, he was vitally interested in the social and political aspects stemming from biologic effects of ionizing radiation in general and those due to radioiodine therapy of differentiated cancer in particular.

In 1985, Hans Creutzig assumed the position of Full Professor and Chairman of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Essen. Only a few months later, he was diagnosed as having metastatic colon cancer, which marked the beginning of a 21-month-long struggle against his fate. Hans Creutzig chose an alternative we all admired: Instead of resigning, he directed all his energy toward his work in Essen, which was highlighted by being awarded funds for a PET camera. Only a few weeks before his death did Hans accept his inevitable fate. Those of us who had the chance to spend time with him during his last weeks could ascertain that he had accepted his death.

Hans Creutzig is survived by his wife, Immo, two sons, Christopher and Hans Jacob, and daughter, Katharina. His enthusiasm for his work against insurmountable odds is an inspiration for all of us. His death is a loss for Germany and international Nuclear Medicine, and he will be deeply missed.

*Hans J. Biersack, MD
Udalrich Büll, MD
Harald Schicha, MD
Otmar Schober, MD, PhD*