

Tribute to Professor Hans-Peter Wagner, 13.11.1930 – 09.03. 2022

It was with great sadness and emotion that we learned of the passing of Hans-Peter Wagner in early March of this year.

Hans-Peter was the pioneer of pediatric onco-hematology in Switzerland. He was the first to develop a specialized consultation at the Inselspital in Bern, while visiting other patients in Lausanne, Geneva and Lucerne. First integrated into the SAKK, he quickly foresaw the need to bring his pediatric colleagues together in a society independent of adult oncology, and created the Swiss Paediatric Oncology Group (SPOG) in 1976, which he presided over for many years and which still exists today. Along with other European and American colleagues, he was a founding member of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP). He was a long-time member of the SIOP's Committee before creating and chairing the SIOP's Working Group for the development of pediatric oncology in middle- and low-income countries.

For many pediatric oncologists of my generation, Hans-Peter has been a professional and spiritual father, a personality with great charisma, great generosity, knowing how to spot the talents and get the best out of them, always having as a priority the bio-psycho-social health of children and adolescents with cancer. He was a great physician, a remarkable researcher and an unforgettable personality for all of us. After his professional retirement, he remained very active and present in the SPOG's Scientific Committee's sessions, asking critical questions or bringing forward solutions always worthy of the impressive wisdom he carried with him!

Hans-Peter, we are going to miss you so much. You remain an example to us all, and we will continue to commit ourselves, as you have taught us, to the health and well-being of our patients and their families.

Of course, our thoughts go first to your wife Anne-Lucie, a great lady, and to your many children and grandchildren.

For SPOG and SSPHO

Prof. Nicolas von der Weid