

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPH ZYWIETZ (1937–2005)



Christoph Zywietz, a staunch supporter of Computers in Cardiology and organiser of the 1999 meeting in Hannover, died on April 23rd, 2005. Computers in Cardiology, and the field of electrocardiography in particular, has lost one of its most knowledgeable engineers.

Christoph was born on 18th May, 1937 near Berlin. In 1947, the family moved to Berlin where Christoph continued his education and in 1959 he graduated Dipl.-Ing. FH in Electrical Engineering from the Staatliche Ingenieurschule Gauss, Berlin. Over the next 10 years he worked for various companies and undertook further studies at the University of Hannover where he finally settled in 1969 at the Medical School. Two years later, he was appointed Head of the Division of Biosignal Processing.

Christoph will be best remembered for developing the Hannover ECG System (HES), an interpretative ECG program that is still in use in many electrocardiographs worldwide. He was a member of the steering committee of the Common Standards in Electrocardiography (CSE) project and was the lynch pin in developing the Standard Communications Protocol (SCP) for computerized electrocardiography, a topic which kept him busy until his untimely death. He established a European conformance-testing centre for ECGs and his recommendations currently form part of the IEC specifications for ECG analysis programs. He was involved in many European projects and in 1992 became Chairman of the European Standards Organisation (CEN) TC251 WG5 Committee dealing with medical devices. He worked tirelessly at establishing standards in this area, and for this has been given a posthumous award by the IEEE.

When he retired from University work at age 65, he formed his own company Biosigna and continued to be as active as ever.

Christoph rarely missed a Computers in Cardiology Meeting and was always an active participant in discussions. His contributions will be sorely missed, while it will be extremely difficult to replace his expertise.

Christoph is survived by his wife Ingeborg, who attended the 2005 Computers in Cardiology Meeting in Lyon, as well as his daughter Antje and his son Tosja, who will take over the running of Biosigna with the aim of perpetuating Christoph's work on the HES program.

Peter W. Macfarlane, Paul Rubel on behalf of Computers in Cardiology.