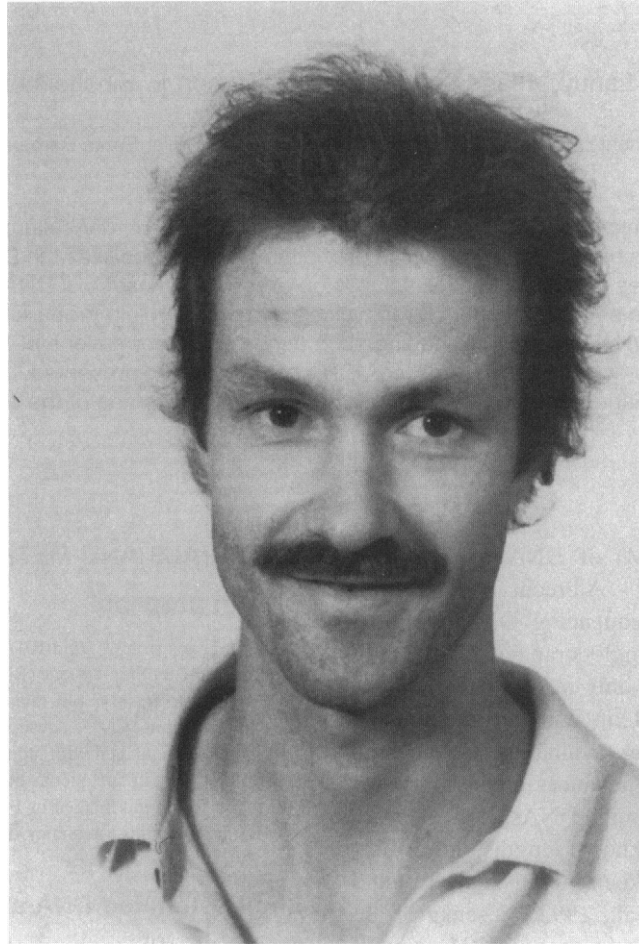


IN MEMORIAM



Albrecht L. Weisenhorn 1961–1993

Albrecht Weisenhorn died of AIDS on August 26, 1993 at the Cantonal Hospital in Lausanne (Switzerland). He had been our collaborator and colleague at the Institute of Histology and general Embryology of the University of Fribourg for a year and a half. Before he had been a PhD student at the University of Santa Barbara in California. His studies in physics were accomplished at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zürich, the city where he was born and grew up.

During his stay in California, Albrecht Weisenhorn contributed important knowledge to the developing field of scanned probe microscopy. He published seminal papers on DNA imaging and force-versus-indentation curves and made pioneering contributions to the development of a fluid cell for the atomic force microscope.

Albrecht Weisenhorn's stay among us marked our lives. He was a gifted scientist with a sound dose of ambition. Well prepared, with a first hand knowledge of scanning probe microscopy, as applied to biology, he helped us develop these techniques in Fribourg. His scientific talent allowed him to immediately obtain an important grant from the Swiss National Foundation. He introduced us to a variety of original scientific concepts and problems; his contributions ranged from the narration of his travels in distant countries through the explication of mathematical rules in nature to speculations about the relationship between mind and matter.

When somebody dies young, it is sad, but natural, to imagine what he might have become if he could have lived longer. I like to imagine that Albrecht would have become a renowned specialist at the interface between physics and biology, physics and medicine. He would have attempted, using the new microscopic tools which he helped to develop, to look at the very essence of biological phenomena. He would surely have tried to observe living matter, living molecules with these phenomenal new tools which allow such a prodigious resolution.

The teachers, friends, and colleagues of Albrecht met one year after his death in Fribourg to remember his contributions to the development of scanning probe microscopy.* They have written these articles in his honor.

Marco R. Celio, MD
Professor and Chairman

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