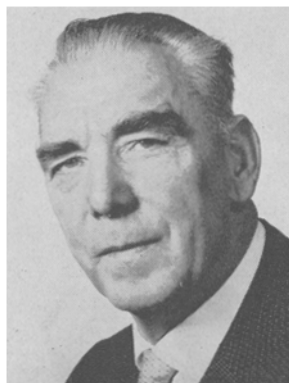


Prominent Lipid Chemist Dies in Cologne

Professor Ernst Klenk, renowned lipid chemist, died December 29, 1971, in Cologne. Professor Klenk, who had just entered his 75th year, is survived by his wife, Dr. Margarete Klenk, and three sons.



Ernst Klenk

Klenk was born October 14, 1896, in Pfalzengrafenweiler, Germany. Following World War I, he became a resident of Tübingen, where he joined the Institute of Physiological Chemistry. After earning his doctorate from the University of Tübingen in 1923, he worked with Professors Thierfelder and Knoop. In 1936 he was awarded a personal professorship in physiological chemistry at the University of Cologne, where he served as dean of the medical faculty from 1947-48 and rector of the University from 1961-62. Until his retirement in 1967, Professor Klenk headed the Department of Physiological Chemistry of the University of Cologne. He became an AOCS member in 1965 and received the AOCS Award in Lipid Chemistry during that same year.

Professor Klenk was a pioneer in the general methodology of fatty acid metabolism, and a forerunner in the use of column chromatography prior to the advent of gas liquid chromatography. He demonstrated the existence of families of fatty acids and deduced much about their metabolic interrelationships, concentrating on the polyunsaturated and essential fatty acids. Klenk's studies covered plants, higher animals and fish, with remarkably accurate results, in spite of problems of methodology in an area which was entirely new at the time he began his research.

Klenk was first to demonstrate the presence of inositol-containing lipids (the inositol phosphatides) in soybean lipid extracts. One of his most outstanding achievements was the discovery of the important class of brain lipids, the gangliosides. He succeeded in isolating one of the gangliosides in crystalline form from brain lipid extracts, and demonstrated that gangliosides were markedly elevated in Tay-Sachs disease (an inherited and fatal disease in infants leading to complete failure of brain development and function).

Professor Klenk also discovered that sphingomyelin is elevated in the brain and other organs in Niemann-Pick disease, another inherited metabolic disease of children. This demonstration brought the total of such diseases known to involve lipids to three (two were discovered by Klenk and one, Gaucher's disease, had been discovered many years earlier). Only within the past four years has another disease, metachromatic leucodystrophy, been added to this list.

Professor Klenk's most recent work related to unsaturated fatty acids.

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• North Central Section . . .

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problems. Reid projected the usage of synthetic ester-based lubricants by 1975 and feels that there will be a small per cent, but volume-wise a substantial portion of the market open for these particular lubricants. Reid charged the fats and oils industry with producing the fatty materials for this potentially lucrative area.

The seventh scheduled speaker of the day, W.B. Papagorge of Monsanto was unable to present his paper on "PCBS—Present and Future."

The next meeting for the North Central Section will be the Bailey Awards Dinner presentation on March 22, 1972, at Josef's Restaurant in Hillside, Illinois. The 12th Alton E. Bailey Award will be presented to Ralph T. Holman of the Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, Austin, for his research contributions to the better understanding of the nutrition of fatty acids and the dietary importance of polyunsaturated fatty acids. Holman will present some of his work in his talk entitled "Nutrition and the Metabolism of Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids."

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