

EDITORIAL

Markku Miettinen

Dr. Franz M. Enzinger 75 years old

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Dr. Franz M. Enzinger, the Emeritus Chairman of the Department of Soft Tissue Pathology of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC, will be 75 years on 17 February 1998. Dr. Enzinger hardly requires introduction – his contributions in tumor pathology and the pre-eminent textbook in soft tissue pathology are known to virtually all pathologists the world over.

M. Miettinen
Chairman, Department of Soft Tissue Pathology,
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology,
14th Street & Alaska Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20306-6000, USA
Tel.: (+1) 202-782-2793; Fax: (+1) 202-782-9182

Dr. Enzinger, native of Rohrbach, Austria, got his MD degree from the University of Innsbruck. He then moved to the United States where he completed a residency in pathology at the University of Iowa. Dr. Enzinger started his affiliation with AFIP in 1957, first in the Department of Pulmonary and Otolaryngologic Pathology and Skin and Gastrointestinal Pathology. He then joined the newly formed Department of Soft Tissue Pathology, and became its chairman in 1960. There he also acted as chief of the WHO reference center for soft tissue tumors until his retirement in 1988. Since then, Dr. Enzinger continues to be an active emeritus chairman participating in the consultation practice and offering his help to young investigators.

All pathologists know Dr. Enzinger's fundamental contributions in soft tissue pathology from the long list of tumor entities that he has definitively described and named, alone or with collaborators. The impressive list includes, among others, the classic subtyping of liposarcoma (1962), fibrous hamartoma of infancy (1965), proliferative myositis (1967), clear cell sarcoma of tendons and aponeuroses (1968), epithelioid sarcoma (1970), extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma (1972), spindle cell lipoma (1975), fibroma of tendon sheath (1979), pleomorphic lipoma (1981), plexiform fibrohistiocytic tumor (1988), and ossifying fibromyxoid tumor (1989). These tumor entities have not only stood the test of time as defined tumor types – some of them, such as clear cell sarcoma and extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma, have been recently verified as molecular pathologic entities with typical, consistent translocations illustrating the deep biologic background in their naming. For other tumor types, the challenge in the genetic and biologic characterization continues, using Dr. Enzinger's histologic classification as a solid base.

Dr. Enzinger's sweeping contributions to tumor pathology have led to numerous awards and honors, domestic and international. He was the recipient of the Fred F. Stewart award of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York in 1985, the Heath Award of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas in 1976,

and received honorary doctorates from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the University of Göttingen, Germany. As a recognition of his extraordinary service, he was given the rank of Meritorius Executive by President Reagan. Dr. Enzinger is a honorary member of several societies, including the German and Austrian societies of pathologists. He was also invited as a member of the German Academy of Natural scientists, the Leopoldina.

The *Handbook of Soft tissue Tumors* that Dr. Enzinger co-authored with Dr. Sharon Weiss, and the *Atlas of Soft Tissue Tumors* he published together with Dr. Jeanne Meis, both of whom also served as chair of the Soft Tis-

sue Department, crystallize Dr. Enzinger's lifetime experience in soft tissue pathology.

An important aspect of Dr. Enzinger's contribution has been his nurturing and developing of talent in soft tissue pathology. Many well-known soft tissue pathologists have had an opportunity to study and collaborate with Dr. Enzinger – an extremely productive venture, tremendously helped by the vision, team-player attitude and unselfishness of Dr. Enzinger, who continues to help his department as a consultant and a research source.

We believe that the editors and readers of *Virchows Archiv* will join us wishing Dr. Enzinger a happy birthday and many more happy years.