

In Memoriam

Professor Jürgen Koebke (1945-2012)



Professor Koebke

Professor Dr. rer. nat. Jürgen Koebke is a distinguished German anatomist, long-standing director of the Medical Faculty of the University of Cologne which is one of the well-organized anatomical institutes in Germany. He is an honorary member of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society and a great friend of the Medical University of Varna. He died suddenly on February 23, 2012 at the age of 66.

The students qualify him as a lovely teacher with unique sense of humor and great personality. A lot of physician generations and more than 200 postgraduates remember him with honor and respect. Innovative and very important activities organized and conducted by Prof. Koebke were the practical human cadaver courses for physicians from the surgical training, attended also by Bulgarian colleagues.

The scientific interests of Prof. Koebke were in the field of the topographic and clinical anatomy, the functional anatomy and biomechanics of the locomotor system, where he generated fundamental achievements of great importance for clinical practice. He was the first scientist-anatomist who developed the morphological aspects of the implantology and endoprosthesis techniques.

Professor Koebke worked very actively for development of the cooperation with the Bulgarian anatomists and numerous Bulgarian colleagues have worked at his Institute. His collaboration with the University of Varna was impressive leading to the participation of numerous anatomists and orthopedists from Cologne in the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Symposia on Clinical Anatomy.



Professor Koebke with his students



Professor Koebke in the dissecting hall



Professor Koebke at Koprivshitsa Morphological Days

Professor Koebke significantly contributed to the affirmation of the Koprivshitsa Morphological Days as an international event organized by the Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Bulgarian Anatomical Society, as well. His contribution to the Bulgarian anatomical science was greatly appreciated and he was awarded the title “Honorary Member of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society” in 2006. In honour of Prof. Koebke, one of the Dissecting Halls of the Department of Anatomy in Medical University Varna was renamed Koebke’s Hall.

The decease of Professor Jürgen Koebke is a heavy loss for the Bulgarian Anatomical Society. We lost a very distinguished, worthy and unforgettable Person, Teacher, Scientist and a great Friend of Bulgaria.

Prof. Dr. V. Vassilev,
Prof. Dr. M. Davidoff