



## Prof. Dr. med. Helmut Madersbacher :

### International Medical Society of Paraplegia Medallist 1997



It is hard to find anyone in the world whose contributions to what nowadays is called Neuro-urology compares with that of Helmut Madersbacher.

He was born in Innsbruck in 1938 and received his doctorate of medicine from Innsbruck University's Faculty of Medicine in 1962. After general medical training in Vienna and Innsbruck he held a residency in urology in the Innsbruck Department of Urology from 1965 until 1969. Subsequently he remained in this Department as Senior Registrar until 1975 and began to be involved scientifically with the problems of Neuro-urology. He spent several months study visits at the National Spinal Cord Injuries Centre Stoke Mandeville in England, at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm and at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. These visits left him with many important impressions and were formative in the development of his future work.

Because of his scientific activities he was appointed Associate Professor at the Innsbruck University Faculty of Medicine in 1976. The fact that he was chosen as Medical Director of the Innsbruck University Hospital in 1980, without giving up his scientific activities, speaks well for both his popularity and his indefatigable energy. In 1981 he was appointed extraordinary Professor of Urology, and since 1995 Professor Madersbacher is the Head of the Neuro-urology unit in the University Hospital of Innsbruck.

Furthermore Helmut Madersbacher is a founding member of the special working party for urodynamics and neuro-urology of the German Urological Society and is council member for the IMSOP and of the German Paraplegic Society since 1986. He was chairman of the International Continence Society (ICS) in 1984, and in 1993 he was president of the Austrian Urological Society. By having this year's IMSOP Medical Scientific congress in his home town, this can be seen and understood as a professional climax, for Helmut a long cherished wish indeed came true.

He has over 250 publications in national and international scientific journals including several chapters in textbooks, the main subject being the diagnosis and treatment of lower urinary tract dysfunction, resulting from his work.

The fact that he manages to undertake such an enormous amount of work is certainly in part due to the wonderful support of his family. All who attend and participate in one of the numerous congresses that he has organised have vivid pleasant reminiscences of his charming wife Mechthild and of their four grown-up children.

Helmut Madersbacher in Europe is the 'elder statesman' amongst neuro-urologists; his work is known and appreciated world-wide. He highly deserves the recognition of his work by his election as this year's recipient of the medal of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia.

Those who wish to know Helmut personally are advised to join him for a glass of good wine in the evening or for some ski-ing, or indeed for both!

Nevertheless, one is more likely to meet him in an airplane somewhere between the continents. I hope to witness his activity for many more years to come and thank him personally for his constant willingness to help.

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