

Doctor Detlef Schlöndorff passed away yesterday in New York after courageously fighting a disease with unfortunately an inescapable outcome. He truly was a world citizen. He trained in Internal Medicine and Nephrology in Germany, France, and the United States at Montefiore Hospital and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine under the guidance of Neil Bricker. In 1988, he was appointed tenured full professor in medicine and director of the renal division at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, and in 1993, Professor and Chair of Medicine and Director of the University Medical Policlinic Hospital of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany. In 2007 he became Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Ludwig-Maximilians-University and returned to New York where he became a member of the Department of medicine and Division of nephrology at Mount Sinai, positions which he held until his untimely death.

Detlef Schlöndorff has been a leading investigator in the field of kidney diseases with a strong clinical emphasis, working both in Europe and the United States for the last 40 years. Major achievements of his group included important discoveries in mesangial cell biology, identification of the role of chemokines and their receptors in kidney diseases, characterization of Toll-like receptors in the kidney, demonstration that monocyte-derived microparticles can transfer to endothelial cells, and definitively showing that T-cells penetrate the glomerulus through breaches in the Bowman's capsule. In 1999, Detlef Schlöndorff had the vision to establish a renal biopsy bank, a forward-thinking step in establishing an infrastructure now considered critical for precision medicine and targeted therapies.

Detlef Schlöndorff has been a member of the ISN for over 30 years and has participated as a speaker, organizer and chairperson at multiple ISN/WCN congresses and meetings. From 2005 to 2011, he served as Associate Editor for Kidney International and KI Supplements before taking over as Editor-in-Chief in 2012. Under his leadership submissions to Kidney International increased to over 1500 per year and the impact factor went up to 8.40. His universal knowledge was that of a Renaissance man. He was an open minded and inspiring Editor with a great deal of rigor, fairness and generosity.

This year in Melbourne, he received the Jean Hamburger award which he considered as the highlight of his career.

Throughout his career, Detlef was extremely devoted to his family, his wife Barbara, his daughter Sophie, his son Johannes and his grandchildren. He was truly loved by his fellows for his enthusiasm for clinical medicine and translational research. He helped an amazing number of young people to start a career in nephrology. He was a commanding figure, a precious and trusted friend, a fine raconteur, with a broad humanistic culture and a great sense of humor. We will never forget his voice or his face.

The Kidney International Board deeply mourns his loss.

Pierre Ronco, Brad Rovin on behalf of the Board