

European Association
of Schools of
Occupational
Medicine

EASOM

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In this issue:

In Memoriam Dr Barbara Nemitz

It is our sad duty to announce the death of Dr Barbara Nemitz. She died on the 9th of January, 2009.

With this special issue of our Bulletin we commemorate Barbara as one of the founders of EASOM and a very warm friend and colleague.

Barbara's funeral will take place on Friday, the 13th of February 2009, at "Südwestkirchhof" (Southwest Cemetery), Bahnhofstraße, 14532 Stahnsdorf, Germany.

May she rest in peace.

The Board of EASOM



Curriculum Vitae

Barbara Nemitz was born on the 5th of January, 1949.

In 1967/1968 she started as a student, first in mathematics and biology. In the summer of 1968 she moved to medicine.

The years of 1975 and 1976 were her “Medizinalassistenten-Zeit”: this is the period the young physician is working under supervision. After that period Barbara got her “Aprobation” which means that she was licensed to work as a physician.

From October 1977 till September 1980 she was working as a scientific assistant at the Institute for Occupational Health of the Free University of Berlin.

On the 6th of June, 1979 she defended her thesis, and acquired the title of Doctor Medicinae (Dr. med.)

From October 1980 till September 1982 Barbara was a researcher at the Institute for Psychology of the Free University of Berlin.

In July 1983 she started the training in occupational medicine and in 1986 she was qualified as a “Fachärztin für Arbeitsmedizin”: a specialist in occupational medicine.

From 1985 till 1989 she was working as an occupational physician.

On the 1st of January 1990 she became manager of the Akademie für Arbeitsmedizin in Berlin. This was the job she fulfilled for many years, with great enthusiasm and much creativity.

In 1993 she was one of the four founders of EASOM, the European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine.

The last years her health was getting worse. Nevertheless she tried to keep in touch with her colleagues.

She died on the 9th of January, 2009, four days after her 60th birthday.

May she rest in peace.

Personal memories of Barbara

About 1987, a group of four occupational physicians, all working at schools for occupational medicine, developed a plan to enhance European cooperation in training and education in occupational medicine. Barbara Nemitz was a member of that group, together with Jean-François Caillard, Tar-Ching Aw and Piet Kroon. This 'gang of four' worked very hard to realise the foundation of what later became EASOM. Barbara Nemitz contributed in an active and positive way, also because she was very intelligent and open minded, and had a clear vision on occupational medicine. In those days there was still a tendency to prefer homemade (national) solutions, in spite of possibly better suggestions that came from elsewhere. Due to her open mind, she had a good sense for 'the best solution' whether it was German or not. With her social awareness she knew how to build a European organisation respecting national differences and corresponding feelings. My impression is that thanks to Barbara, the German and European occupational medicine really got connected.

She was also the main organiser of the first European conference concerning education and training in occupational medicine in 1993, which was also the start of EASOM. After the foundation of EASOM she became vice president for some years.

Barbara was very kind and hospitable. In those early EASOM days I had the honour to stay from time to time in her apartment in Berlin. There we had long and interesting discussions about a wide range of subjects, because she had many areas of interest (music, philosophy, history), and we enjoyed a glass of wine and typical Dutch cheese and clover.

With the early death of Barbara Nemitz, the German and European occupational medicine lose a strong and visionary advocate, and a very warm person.

Piet Kroon

Secretary General of EASOM 1993-2001

