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# Celebration in Honor of Prof. Dr. Claus F. Claussen's Sixtieth Birthday

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Los Angeles, CA  
June 18, 1999

Dear Professor and Friend:

It is a great privilege for me to have been selected by you to give evidence of the affection that my wife, Julia, and I feel for you. We highly appreciate the fact that you have always shared your knowledge, ability, time and talent with us, in addition to the hospitality and friendship that you and Erika have always offered us. We cannot honor our teacher without mentioning a short outline of his life.

Claus-Frenz Claussen, son of Irmentraut and Hugo Claussen, was born on May 28, 1939, in Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He is the youngest of three children, an elder brother, Hans, and a sister, Witcke.

Between 1945 and 1959, Claus attended primary and secondary school at Husum, Germany. From 1959 to 1965, he undertook medical studies at the universities of Bonn and Hamburg, Germany, concurrently with foreign student courses at Toulouse (France), Oxford (Great Britain), Oslo (Norway), Göthenburg (Sweden), Kopenhagen (Denmark), and Aarhus (Denmark). In 1965, he passed his final medical examination in Hamburg (medical doctor degree) and the American ECFMG examination in the United States.

Claus fulfilled a medical internship at Hamburg and Simmerath, Germany, from 1965 to 1967, after which he served as resident at the ear, nose, and throat clinic of the Free University of Berlin until 1970. During the period 1968-1969, at the invitation of Docent Dr. Henriksson, he carried out two research fellowships in neurotology in Lund, Sweden. At the Medical School of the Free University of Berlin (First German habilitation in this field), Claus completed a neurootological post-doctoral thesis in 1970, which qualified him as a university lecturer accomplished in the new medical subspecialty of neurootology.

From 1969 to 1971, Claus devoted his time to planning and setting up a new neurootological laboratory at Steglitz University Clinic of the Free University of Berlin, Germany. Also in 1971, he dedicated himself to planning and setting up a new neurootological department in the ear, nose, and throat clinic at the university head center of the University of Würzburg, Bavaria, Germany.

Since 1972, Claus has taught medical neurootologi-

cal courses in many countries of Europe, Asia, and North and South America, as, for instance, at the American Academy of Otorhinolaryngology. Along with specialists from all continents, Claus cofounded the International Neurootological and Equilibrimetric Society at Bad Kissingen, Bavaria, Germany in 1974.

He has, since 1976, delivered regular lectures at the University of Würzburg on fine arts and the sciences, combining these with regular exhibitions of his steel sculptures and paintings.

Appointed Prof. Extraordinarius for Neurootology at the University of Würzburg in 1978, Claus continues in this role.

In 1982, he founded and directed the Neurootological Research Institute 4-G-F of the Research Society for Smelling, Tasting, Hearing and Equilibrium Disorders in Bad Kissingen.

For nearly two decades, Prof. Dr. Claussen has performed special work in the field of neurootology worldwide. In 1960, Dr. Von Troelltsch, an ophthalmologist and professor extraordinarius for otology, began at the University of Würzburg to develop otolaryngology, which today is a universally acknowledged discipline. Likewise, Claus began in 1970 to develop the special subsdiscipline of neurootology in Würzburg.

Since 1967, he has developed many objective and quantitative tests for a noninvasive functional network analysis of the human sensory system: In equilibration, such tests include the butterfly calorigram, rotatory intensity damping test, kiteoptogram, cranio-corpogram with head, neck, and body movement analysis, and cyclogram of adaptation; in olfactometry, the target olfactogram; in gustometry, the five-component chemogustogram and incremented impulse electrogustogram; and in audiometry, the stimulus impulse cross-chart of auditory brain-evoked and auditory late-evoked potentials.

At the National Aeronautics and Space Administration laboratories in Pensacola, Florida, between 1972 and 1974, Claus developed strategies for a pharmacological system of neurootometry-based therapy of vertigo, dysosmia and dysgeusia, which later extended to the field of tinnitus treatment.

To date, Prof. Dr. Claussen has published some 450 articles, monographs, catalogs, and patent descriptions (i.e., the endoscope for otolaryngology in 1969). His publications are written and printed in several lan-

guages including German, English, Spanish, French and, during his early years, Swedish.

During more than a decade of world congresses on otorhinolaryngology, Claus has been invited to coordinate and moderate numerous special sessions on neurotology or to present magistral lectures on one of the four major branches of neurotology, which he has defined as equilibration, audiometry, olfactometry, and gustometry. As we have observed personally, he has very close friends in many countries on all continents. His contributions at these meetings are always intensive, innovative, and outstanding. Prof. Dr. Claussen's written and oral presentations, being very lively and clear, are highly deserving of the overwhelming acceptance by audiences worldwide. His basic knowledge, multilingual talents, and warmth have attracted many accolades—particularly honorary memberships in scientific organizations, medals, and awards—for more than 25 years. In view of this, he has been elected president of the International Neurotological and Equilibration Society Reg., which has held meetings the world over for 25 years. Claus also serves as vice president of the World Academy of Equilibrium Researchers (i.e., the Barany Society from Uppsala, Sweden). He organized the first meeting of this most distinguished and highly recognized scientific international academy in Würzburg in September 1988.

Among the activities of the 4-G-F eV (Gesellschaft zur Erforschung von Geruch-, Geschmack-, Gehör-, und Gleichgewichtsstörungen eV, Bad Kissingen) is publication of the *International Tinnitus Journal*, of which Claus is the editor-in-chief. He also serves as an editor of the *International Neurotology Newsletter*.

The international home-page system (<http://www.vertigo-dizziness.com>) originating from the 4-G-F eV and Neurofisiología Otooftalmológica received nearly 200,000 hits on its front page in its second year of existence. The Neurotological and Equilibration Society (NES) shares our common home page (<http://www.vertigo-dizziness.com/nas>).

I do not want to disregard in this testimony a very important second feature of Claus's visionary academic personality, which is his building of an important, pioneering bridge from neurosensology to fine arts and culture. More than 25 years ago, he started to investigate the basics of modern sciences in relation to the basics of modern fine arts. He began creating his own pieces of fine art, working in the media of painting, sculpture, and metalwork. Prof. Dr. Claussen also lectures and publishes on this work, as for instance, during the future-oriented second International Artist Symposium of the University at Ulm in 1997.

His group of large outdoor steel sculptures of the Saints of Frankonia can be seen on a hilltop above Würzburg. Others of Claus's sculptures are standing from the west of Switzerland through the Black Forest and Baden-Baden, along Frankonia, up to the Green Hill of Bayreuth, and in front of the Richard Wagner Festival Hall, over Hof and down to the very center of Berlin.

He is engaged as vice president of the European fine art association "Via Europae Sculpturarum E.V.," serving on the board of that organization with a group of European artists, politicians, and art lovers. This association already has scheduled exhibitions in 12 European countries, the centerpiece being Claus's "Gate Toward Luck Between Endemonism and Hedonism" at Lichtenberg.

We were honored to be among those at the inauguration of Prof. Dr. Claussen's fine art park and steel museum in front of his alterier in Eisenbühl, Oberfranken. The event was enthusiastically attended by many academic, public, and private persons. There, we learned about Claus's theory on narrative sensology, which explains a human interrelation between the fine arts and sciences.

We believe that such activity among scientists is very uncommon. In the future, when many scientific measurements will be performed automatically or by computers, we will be compelled to search for the connections between the world of scientific ideas and the world of fine arts and to make these connections understandable to all. Only then will the humanities maintain the central focus of our academic world.

Dear professor and teacher, I am nearing the end of this speech, but something very important remains to be said.

At this moment as we are reviewing your life, we, your friends, are aware of the long and difficult road you have taken to get where you are today. We admire your hard work and fighting spirit. We celebrate your missionary work, by which you have extended your sphere of influence and expanded the world's understanding of neurosensology. You have embraced the struggles in your life as a means of achieving your goals and learning from and instructing others. However, I am absolutely certain that you, too, will credit your wife, Erika, for her constant love and support of your endeavors, enhancing your efforts and lending strength to your reputation and stature.

Today, Erika is beside herself with joy for your great success. We honor both of you on this momentous occasion.

Dr. Med. Guillermo O. Bertora  
Buenos Aires, Argentina