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In Memoriam

Remembering Dr. Ernst Kenndler: A Pioneer in Capillary Electrophoresis and Its Basic Principles

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Great orators have has the remarkable ability to captivate their audiences and keep their attention. They can break down complex topics into understandable concepts that educate and inspire. Dr. Ernst Kenndler had this natural gift and could transform the challenging subject of electrophoresis into brilliantly memorable lectures, delivering serious content with humor, imagination, and flair. A kind of a storyteller that motivated, educated, and ignited our inner fire.

Ernst Kenndler was born on July 9, 1943, in Linz, Austria. In 2023, it could have been his 80th birthday anniversary. It was in this stunning city, decorated with ornate buildings and grand churches that he began his early education and received an Abitur Diploma to qualify for college entry. Ernst Kenndler enrolled at the University of Vienna in 1961 to pursue studies in chemistry and physics. He worked at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, where radiochemistry was the primary focus of research at this academy. After receiving his Ph.D. degree in Analytical Chemistry, he joined the group of renowned Professor J.F.K Huber as a postdoctoral student.

In 1975, Dr. Kenndler shifted his investigation to gas chromatography, eventually leading him to focus on isotachopheresis and capillary zone electrophoresis. He soon became a distinguished member of the international analytical chemistry community, playing a significant role in understanding the principles of separation science, especially in the field of electrophoresis. Dr. Kenndler served as a Professor of the Institute for Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences at University of Vienna in Austria, from 1990 until his retirement in 2008. The University of Helsinki, Finland, granted Ernst Kenndler in 2004 the title of Docent in Analytical Chemistry, in recognition of his scientific and teaching merits. Additionally, he was a lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, from 1986 to 1999. Yet perhaps his most noteworthy professional achievement, was authoring nearly 250 scientific papers.

During his last years in academia, Dr. Kenndler became interested in bioanalysis, specifically, the macromolecular assembly of viruses. Additionally, he worked on theoretical aspects of capillary electrophoresis with organic solvents, and their implications for separation. Despite retiring, he continued to be very active in his vocation, writing papers, serving as a mentor for younger scientists, as well as a member of the Editorial Board for many separations science journals. Over the decades, he collaborated with countless professors and students throughout Europe and Latin America, establishing an incredibly vast network and inspired nearly everyone he worked with.

Dr. Ernst Kenndler was a connoisseur of many things, including arts, history, and food – so much so,

that we called him a “walking library.” He was so affable; you could immediately engage into a conversation with him and feel as if you had known him for years. Ernst Kenndler was always compassionate, empathetic, and positive with his pupils and although he could be strict, he was an exceptional lecturer who forged deep and lasting bonds with his students. As a scientist, he was indelible, leaving behind a legacy of scholarly work related to the basic principles of electrophoresis and its history. Without a doubt, Dr. Kenndler was an inspirational professor, a dedicated mentor, and an innovative scientist that will never be forgotten. He will be greatly missed.



Guzman

Rizzi

Kenndler

Gaš

Riekkola