



Dedication

This issue and the previous issue of *Seminars in Diagnostic Pathology* are dedicated to Prof. Dr. Dr. H.C. Karl Lennert on the occasion of his 90th birthday (Figure 1).

Professor Lennert, who was my mentor in hematopathology in 1980, pioneered the current knowledge of malignant lymphomas. Using his bright intelligence, spirit of observation, rigorous methodology, and strong motivation, he developed a morphologic view on lymphatic tissue that is still the basis of both lymphoma diagnosis and research. Relating lymphomas to possible physiological counterparts of the disease led him to establish a terminology for cells, with differentiation and growth patterns still being an integral part of the current classification. The same theoretic approach has been stimulating molecular lymphoma research for decades by analysis of immunoglobulin genes and gene expression profiling to identify and characterize a “cell of origin.”

Under his leadership, the Institute of Pathology of the Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel became the reference center for malignant lymphomas not only in Germany but also in Europe and the light for several American colleagues. He started the impressive case collection that is still available and represents a true patrimony for the international community, as I had the chance to appreciate during my stay in Kiel in 2009 that represented my last service as president of the European Association for Haematopathology (EAHP).

Professor Lennert was the father of the Kiel Classification, which was pivotal for the present classification of tumors of the lymphoid and hematopoietic tissues. In this endeavor, he looked for an international consensus by

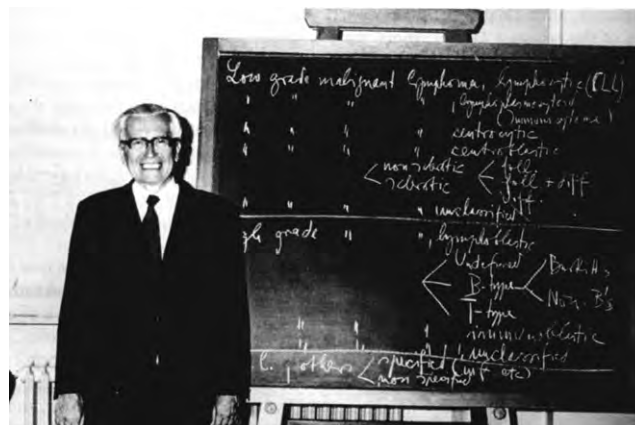


Figure 1 The picture was taken in the microscopy room of the Institute of Pathology of Kiel University in 1974. Prof Karl Lennert is in front of a blackboard, upon which the first formulation of the Kiel Classification is drafted.

founding first the European Lymphoma Study Club first and later the European Lymphoma Study Group, which gave rise to the present EAHP.

As a scientist and academic, he founded a school that has generated many leading figures in Germany and all over the world who have continued and expanded his work.

I am sure that my personal gratitude to Professor Lennert is shared by hematopathologists worldwide for his unique contribution to the onset, development, and success of our discipline.

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 Guest Editor