

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

BRUNO GERSTL (1901 - 1993)

Dr. Bruno Gerstl, Professor Emeritus of Pathology and former chief of Pathology at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Medical Center, died March 12, 1993, in Seattle, Washington. He would have been ninety-two in April.

Bruno Gerstl was born in Neunkirchen, Austria in 1901. He graduated from the Austrian Imperial Gymnasium in 1919, and received his medical degree from the University of Vienna in 1927. He came to Yale University where he was a research assistant and instructor in Pathology from 1940 to 1944. Then he worked as director of the Central Laboratory of Pathology and Research for the State of Connecticut from 1944 to 1947.

An expert on brain chemistry and pulmonary tumors, Dr. Gerstl joined Stanford in 1961 after serving on the faculty of the University of California and as chief of Laboratory Service at the Oakland Veterans Hospital.

At Stanford he was a well regarded member of the Pathology faculty and established a neurochemistry laboratory which has inspired several distinguished researchers in the field. One of them-Lawrence Eng-heads the laboratory today and continues Gerstl's tradition of quality and integrity. During Gerstl's tenure the Pathology training program at the Veterans Hospital became fully integrated with Stanford's and the VA Clinical Laboratory gained a well deserved reputation. Together with Oscar Auerback (Orange, NJ) and Raymond Yesner (New Haven, CT), Bruno Gerstl served as member of a panel to classify pulmonary tumors for the World Health Organization. His publications have ranged from studies of enzymes as factors of resistance in tuberculosis to brain lipids in multiple sclerosis and lipids as markers of the biochemical maturation of the brain.

In 1971 Bruno Gerstl became Professor Emeritus, but remained active doing research on brain lipids and lung cancer at the Palo Alto VA until the age of eighty. In February 1993, he moved to Seattle. Dr. Gerstl belonged to several professional organizations including the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, College of American Pathologists, Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, American Thoracic Society, American Federation for Clinical Research, American Academy of Neurology, and American Society for Neurochemistry.

He is survived by his wife Llona Kondor Gerstl, a son John and his wife, Mae, of Seattle; two grandsons, Lawrence and Roger (Seattle and Tacoma, respectively), and a granddaughter Katie, of Seattle.

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