



Munich Urology, a Corner-Pillar of German Urology

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Abstract

A short overview is given about the history of one of the corner-pillar of German Urology, the Department of Urology at Munich, Thalkirchner Straße 48 during 1938 and 1983 under May, Schmiedt and Hofstetter.

Keywords: History of german urology; Department of urology; Munich/Germany; Lasers in urology; ESWL; ISWL; Non gonogoccal urethra-adnexitis (mycoplasmas/chlamydiales)

Perspective

The history of the Munich Urology is a fundamental corner pillar of the German Urology and started in 1938 in the Municipal Hospital, Thalkirchner Straße 48 under Prof. Dr. med. Ferdinand May. The department comprised 100 beds and was the biggest and most modern urological department in due course. Because of the model - character the department has become an attraction for urologists not only from Germany but also abroad. The main cause was the very functional and pragmatic constructed unit and the novel operation - techniques, especially in connection with tuberculosis during and after the 2nd world war by Prof. May from the Department of Urology in the Thalkirchner Straße have descended not only all the municipal urological units, but also the two University Hospitals of Urology of the Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU) and the Technical University r.d. Isar (TUM). Prof. May headed the department from 1938 till to 1966 with a short interruption from 1946 to the end of 1947. During this time guided Prof. Werner Staehler the department. Staehlers merits are in the development of transurethral operation - techniques and replacing urinary bladder after radical cystectomy. In 1958 the Department of Urology in the Thalkirchner Straße became a part of the LMU with a professorship. This was the 2nd chair of Urology in Germany after the 2nd world war. With that an important aim was reached - the independence of Urology from Surgery after dissolving the professorship at Berlin by the allies 1945. Since first assembly of urologists 1896 at Frankfurt and the founding of the German Association of Urology 1906 in Stuttgart the urologists have to fight for independence from surgery. First in the 1960s the independence was reached apart from Schleswig - Holstein (part of FRG). In 1983 I got the first professorship in this Federal State. Successor of Prof. May became Prof. Egbert Schmiedt, a disciple of the surgeon Prof. Rudolf Zenker, 1967. Center of gravity became now the tumor - surgery and the reconstructive plastic surgery in urology. Under Prof. Schmiedt were developed the ESWL (extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy) by Brendel, Eisenberger, Chaussy in cooperation with Dornier Ltd. I was engaged with Hartmut Müßiggang in basic research of laser effects on animal tissue since 1970. Since 1973/74 Gerd Staehler from our hospital and Frank from MBB (Messerschmitt, Bölkow, Blom Ltd.) supported me in my basic and clinical laser research. Beyond it, I was engaged in clarification of the so called "a bacterial urethra - adnexitis caused by mycoplasmas and chlamydiales. First of August 1978, I take over the Department of Urology on the Thalkirchnerstrasse. I have tried not only to hold the" standard "but also expand the spectrum by the tumor-immunology together with Prof. Gericke from Hoechst AG. Simultaneously, I started the laser - ISWL (intracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy). Nov, 1983 I got a professorship at the University of Lübeck. The Department of Urology on the Thalkirchner Straße was transferred into the newly constructed Klinikum, Munic-Bogenhausen under the directorship of my former senior assistant doctor, Prof. Albrecht Schilling.

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Received Date: 24 Apr 2018

Accepted Date: 11 May 2018

Published Date: 14 May 2018

Citation:

Hofstetter AG. Munich Urology, a Corner-Pillar of German Urology. *Ann Med Medical Res.* 2018; 1: 1004.

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