



## Obituary

## In memoriam: Johann (Giovanni) Kugler, MD (1923–2014)



Johann Kugler died on August 6th, 2014, at the age of 91 years. He was one of the European pioneers of the EEG and was well connected with the international community of clinical neurophysiology.

Johann Kugler was born in Vienna (Austria) where he also spent his school time and graduated from grammar school (Matura). He started medical school at the University of Vienna in 1942. After military service and a war injury he continued his medical studies and could graduate from Vienna Medical School in 1949 where he also received his MD.

Johann Kugler visited French EEG laboratories several times in the following years. Especially important for his academic career was a research stay at the department of H. Gastaut in Marseille where he could essentially complete his expertise in EEG and in epilepsy. In March 1956 he moved from Austria to the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry of the University of Munich (Germany) and stayed there until his retirement. In the same year he was asked to advance and to coordinate the neurophysiological lab of the clinic. In 1962 he passed the examination as specialist for Neurology and Psychiatry and obtained the academic title of "Privatdozent" (lecturer) for clinical neurophysiology. He took over the post of a consultant and was appointed associate professor in 1969. In 1975, when Neurology and Psychiatry were separated at the University of Munich, he became director of the department of clinical neurophysiology and of the Epilepsy Clinic. The latter is regarded as one of the first out-patient clinics for epilepsy in Germany and is associated with his name and that of his longtime coworker R. Spatz. He retired in 1988 from his clinical and

academic positions and moved to his house at Lake Mondsee in Austria.

Johann Kugler was a highly talented teacher and a well esteemed and patient supervisor. His annual spring EEG course in Munich became one of the most popular German teaching activities in clinical neurophysiology with participants from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It is well remembered by generations of clinical neurophysiologists and is still continued nowadays. His scientific interest and work was mostly devoted to the EEG in sleep and to the influence of various drugs and anesthetics on the EEG. He was author and coauthors of nearly 100 publications and of several books in these areas.

Johann Kugler was polyglot and could speak with many of his European colleagues in their mother tongue. He initiated (1959) and coordinated the annual Alpine EEG-Meeting together with H. Lechner (Graz/Austria) rotating between Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy. Over many years he was one of the opinion leaders of the German EEG-Society, the current German Society for Clinical Neurophysiology and Functional Imaging (DGKN). He served as its secretary from 1959 to 1963 and as president in the period 1965/1966. He was the international delegate to the IFCN from 1967 to 1976 and 1981 to 1989. The DGKN acknowledged his merits by granting him the Honorary Membership. His excellent international reputation is best exemplified by his election to a "Member-at-large" in the ExCo of the IFCN for the fiscal period 1977–1981 with Robert Naquet as President.

Johann Kugler had two sons and a daughter with his first wife Edith who died in 1987. He married his second wife Eva in 1988 and moved with her to his house at the scenic Lake Mondsee in Austria near Salzburg where he stayed until his death.

The German and Austrian Clinical Neurophysiology communities have lost one of their most prominent representatives and pioneers, an excellent teacher and an always inspiring and pleasant colleague. The DGKN owes a great debt to Johann (Giovanni) Kugler and owes him highest respect and gratitude.

Carl Hermann Lücking<sup>a</sup>  
Reinhard Dengler<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Neurology (Professor Emeritus),  
Medical School of University Freiburg, Germany

<sup>b</sup> Department of Neurology, Medical School Hannover,  
Carl-Neuberg-Str. 1, Hannover 30625, Germany

\* Tel.: +49 511 532 2391; fax: +49 511 532 3115.

E-mail address: [dengler.reinhard@mh-hannover.de](mailto:dengler.reinhard@mh-hannover.de) (R. Dengler)

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