



**Dr. Jacques Walter Jenny**

**June 4, 1927–December 23, 2003**

Dr Jacques Walter Jenny was born in an educated family in Nestal on June 4, 1927. He spent his school and youth years in Glarus, where his father worked as a math and science teacher.

He commenced his medical studies in Lausanne in 1946, and continued his university education at the Zurich University, where he obtained his doctor of medical sciences degree in 1957. He spent his residency period in Yorkshire, England, Vienna, and Zurich.

Between 1958 and 1968, he was a director of the cytological laboratory at the University Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Zurich. In 1962, he opened his own practice and later his own cytological laboratory, which became the leading center in early cancer detection in Switzerland, Europe and the world.

Although Jacques loved his work as a gynecologist and cytologist, he also devoted his time to teaching – he gave numerous lectures and wrote many research papers on gynecological cytology. The textbooks he published were illustrated with figures he himself prepared. The collection of his drawings was exhibited at the cytological congress in Flims, the last but one meeting Dr. Jenny attended.

Congresses of clinical cytology, usually held in Flims, had a special importance for Jacques. In the period 1969–1999, he organized 15 such meetings.

The activities of Dr. Jenny on behalf of integrating clinical cytology in Europe as a science and as a diagnostic discipline should be emphasized here. In the late sixties, his vision of a “united cytological Europe” began to acquire shape, long before the present economically and politically “united” continent was even envisioned. It was on the initiative of Dr. Jenny that in 1969, in Sils Maria, Switzerland, the by-laws of the European Federation of Cytology Societies were developed and later accepted at the First Congress of the federation held in Prague in 1970. It was not accidental, either, that he was elected the Secretary General of the Federation and held this post till 1976. For the subsequent 30 years, he served as a counselor to the Federation and an unquestioned authority in organizational and medical issues pertaining to clinical and especially gynecological cytology.

Pursuing his activities, he was strongly involved in supporting young cytologists from former Soviet block countries. His merits in this field were recognized, what found its reflection in his honorary membership in numerous foreign cytology societies (in Austria, Germany and France), as well as in the Polish Society of Pathologists. Dr. Jenny visited Poland repeatedly, actively participating in symposia and teaching conferences on clinical cytology.

Cytological diagnostic management and its didactic aspects gave meaning to his life. Three weeks prior to his death, he conducted practical classes at the congress held in Munich.

He usually spent his short vacations in the mountains. In his youth, he was an excellent skier, a university champion in downhill skiing. In later years, he often spent his leisure time in his summer home situated 1600 m above the sea level. Dr. Jenny was full of life and good spirits. When speaking, his spontaneity, loud voice, involvement and ability to improvise made him the focus of attention and an integrating force for his listeners. During our shared trips to Flims, Jacques recalled that his acting talents has been used when he performed in the famous professional cabaret in Zurich, called “The Pickled Gherkin”. As a medical student, he was a stand-in in the cabaret, replacing his sick friend.

On December 10, 2003, Dr. Jenny was transported to hospital due to cerebral stroke. On December 23, he died in the neurosurgery department of the University in Zurich, in the same building that still houses the obstetrical department, which meant so much for him for so many years.

While addressing him, his family and close friends used the nickname “Gogg”.

Adieu, Gogg! We will never forget you.

**Prof. Włodzimierz T. Olszewski, M.D.**  
**Jan Faryna M.D.**