

Professor Uwe Claussen (1945-2008)

On Sunday, July 20, 2008, Uwe Claussen, an active member of ASHG, died unexpectedly in Jena, Germany.

Dr. Claussen was an outstanding cytogeneticist and mentor who repeatedly showed both his students and his peers how to think differently and innovatively about human genetics. Furthermore, Dr. Claussen made a great impact in advancing our understanding of chromosome structure and functioning. He also played a significant role in advancing our understanding of cytogenetic research techniques.

Dr. Uwe Claussen was born on April 30, 1945, in Flaberg, Germany as the sixth child of Dr. Ferdinand Claussen and his wife, Gertrud. After graduation in 1972, he studied medicine in Düsseldorf and completed his MD degree on mutagenesis at the local Institute of Human Genetics. In 1985, Dr. Claussen attained a professorship there and also worked in the Department of Biochemistry at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, UK. Later that year, Dr. Claussen left his position in Düsseldorf to work for the Institute of Human Genetics in Erlangen, Germany. Since 1993, Dr. Claussen has been the head of the Institute of Human Genetics and Anthropology in Jena, Germany. Dr. Claussen has co-authored no fewer than 200 articles throughout his career.

Aside from his scientific career, ballooning was Dr. Claussen's other passion. An enthusiastic sportsman, Dr. Claussen founded a number of local ballooning clubs, and placed in more than 36 ballooning competitions between 1978 and 2000.

- Excerpted from a tribute to Dr. Claussen submitted by Thomas Liehr