

[Resuscitation](#). 2009 Oct;80(10):1097-8

Rudolf Juchems

Having completed his internship, Rudolf Juchems stayed on in the United States and worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, before he returned to Germany in 1961 and started research on various aspects of haemodynamics at the University of Würzburg. After completing his residency, he mastered the Habilitation scientific procedure to become “Privatdozent”, i.e. an academic lecturer. He was promoted to a chief resident in clinical medicine at the University of Würzburg.

In 1970, he was appointed professor and was elected to Head of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Klinikum Aschaffenburg, a teaching hospital of the University of Würzburg. There he continued his research on new methods in cardiology and on reducing the mortality of myocardial infarction.

During his internship in the USA he had attended a course in New York City, and it must have been during this course that he became imbued with ideas that later caused his involvement in out-of-hospital CPR. The course was on “Prevention of asphyxial death and endotracheal intubation”.

In 1985, Rudolf Juchems initiated a local CPR and Emergency programme in Aschaffenburg. In 1987, a scientific meeting was held in Frankfurt with other scientific groups to discuss lay CPR and to vote for a resolution addressed to the responsible scientific societies in Germany to found the German Resuscitation Council. By the end of that year, “The German Council for Resuscitation and First Aid” was established, and Rudolf Juchems became Vice-Chairman until 1993. A main focus of his work within this group was always to educate lay people to perform CPR.[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

Rudolf Juchems was involved in the formation of the European Resuscitation Council (ERC). Leo Bossaert had invited him and others to Antwerp for an inaugural meeting that took place in December 1988. The first General Assembly was held two years later in Amsterdam, establishing the Working Groups and the Executive Committee, to which Rudolf Juchems belonged until 1998. During this period, he was involved in several working groups such as basic and advanced life support and the task forces on prehospital management of acute heart attack and peri arrest arrhythmias.[5](#), [6](#), [7](#) In 2002, he was elected an honorary member of the ERC.

Outside the field of CPR, his main scientific interests were clinical cardiology, dealing with the action of nitrates on the coronary vascular system and on the treatment of myocardial infarction and rhythm-disturbances.

Rudolf Juchems never lost his passion for medicine even after he retired in 1994. Two years after this retirement, he hosted the first scientific meeting of the Mayo Alumni German Speaking Chapter, a society of which he was a founding and honorary member.[8](#)

Rudolf Juchems died on 5th September 2008. He is survived by his wife Olga, five children and nine grandchildren.