Dear Colleagues,

With great sorrow I am informing you that our highly appreciated friend and colleague, Prof. Ladislau Steiner, has passed away on February 27th, 2013.

We have lost not only an outstanding neurosurgeon, but also a very good friend, who has received the highest recognition for his life achievements during the last decades.

Ladislau Steiner, 92, was born and grew up in a small Transylvanian city at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains. At that time one could still meet on the slopes peacefully pasturing lambs with craniotomies for extirpation of epidural ticks carried out by shepherds using their pocket knives.

Dr. Steiner graduated at the medical Faculty of the University of Cluj-Napoca. As student he served as "extern" after he, successfully passed the examination test for "Extern of University Hospitals". As fellow in the physiological laboratory of the local section of the Romanian Academy of Science he published still as a student papers in the Annals of the Academy on biological estimation of acetylcholine and its presence in the CSF of schizophrenic and epileptic patients.

Following a period in the Department of Neurosurgery Berlin-Buch with Professor Friedrich Weickmann he left 1962 through Checkpoint Charlie to Stockholm and started to work in the Department of Neurosurgery Karolinska Institute and "Sophia Hemmet" with Leksell and Olivecrona as teachers. In 1973 he defended his Ph. D. Thesis at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. From 1962 to 1987 he was successively resident, associate professor, docent and Neurosurgeon in Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery established by Olivecrona through Royal decree for his closest associate. Steiner was nominated for this position following Sjökvist, Norlén, Leksell and Herlin. Steiner had this position until 1987 when he was invited to be Professor of Neurological Surgery University of Virginia USA. With his leave that position was reincorporated into the Department of Neurosurgery. In Virginia Steiner established the Lars Leksell Center of Gamma Surgery and became its Director. He soon became Alumni Chair and Professor of Neurosurgery and Radiology and Director of the Lars Leksell Center for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery. In 2000 he was invited by Professor Madjid Samii, President of the newly established International Neuroscience Institute, to be Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Center for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery. However, for personal reasons he couldn't follow the call. In July 2010 he tended his resignation from the position at the University of Virginia and joined the International Neuroscience Institute in Hannover, Germany, as Professor of Neurosurgery, senior advisor for Neurosurgery and Radiosurgery. Dr. Steiner published experimental and clinical papers, book chapters and books on subarachnoid hemorrhage, aneurysm, arteriovenous malformations, vasospasm,
pituitary adenomas, meningiomas and vestibular schwannomas. He initiated and introduced gamma knife treatment for arteriovenous malformations. He reported on metastatic brain tumors and low and high grade astrocytomas. He published about immunology in gliomas. With Nobel Prize laureates Bergstrom and Samuelson he published papers on prostaglandins and leukotriens. He devised the first hemostatic titanium clip together with von Holst, and among other neurosurgical instruments a laser stereotactic guide for microsurgery and an instrument for reconstruction of the aqueduct. He performed both microsurgery and gamma knife procedures on close to 15,000 patients from 57 countries of six continents. His decisions in the selection of treatment methods - surgery or gamma knife radiosurgery for the best interest of the given patient, his strict long-term follow-up of the clinical and imaging outcome of his management, his principled professional endeavor inspired friendships but generated also loathe.

He was founding, corresponding or honorary member or president of numerous national and international neurosurgical societies. He was a frequently invited lecturer, guest professor, panelist or chairman to international events around the world. He was editor, peer reviewer or invited writer of editorials.

He was honored with the Sheline Lectureship by the University of San Francisco, the Leksell Lectureship by the Karolinska Institute and by the Lars Leksell Gamma Knife Society as well as with the Geoffrey Jefferson lecture by the Society of British Neurosurgeons. He received the Sugita Award of the International Society for Neurosurgical Technology and Instrument Invention. The World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies honored Dr. Steiner with the Gold Medal of Honor in 2003.

He had with his late wife Melitta Steiner MD two sons: Eugen M.D. Ph.D. and Michael Ph.D. in mathematics.

With his personality, performance and experience he has left not only at our institute but also worldwide a remarkable legacy.

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