Ulrich Willi

The ESPR gold medal is an exceptional award recently instituted to recognise a lifetime's work and outstanding achievements in paediatric radiology within Europe. The two previous recipients were Professors Lucaya and Kalifa from Barcelona and Paris, respectively.

This year’s award will be presented to Professor Ulrich Willi. Professor Willi began medical school in 1958 in Freiburg, attending Swiss and French schools prior to qualifying in 1965. He spent his early years after qualification in Zurich and a short period of elective at the Children’s Hospital of Boston, departments of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, from 1977–1980. He completed his doctorate/dissertation in 1974, publishing his professorial thesis on computerized radionuclide voiding cystography (1991–1993). He has spent further sabbaticals at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and at Harvard School of Public Health. He has held the position of attending physician in both Swiss and American hospitals.

He has published 24 book chapters, 40 original papers and contributed to numerous national/international symposia.

Professor Willi has been a member of the ESPR since 1977, was President of the ESPR Congress in Lugano in 1997 and was an officer of the ESPR between 1994–2007, becoming ESPR Councillor and Liaison Officer to the European Congress and Society of Radiology from 1998 to 2007. Professor Willi organised ECR in 1993, 1995 and 1997 and was one of the founding members of the European Society of Urogenital Radiology (ESUR). Professor Willi is also a keen advocate of outreach teaching programmes, which he has undertaken in Armenia, Ukraine, and Moldavia, and also co-operates with Kantha Bopha Children’s Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

He is a keen actor and thespian, and is proud of his talented family of musicians and artists and his much beloved wife Ruth of 40 years.

We thank and congratulate him on his outstanding lifelong contribution to paediatric radiology.