

Dr. Paul Edelmann, MD (1955 – 2021)



Our sympathetic colleague from Frankfurt, Germany, Dr. Paul Edelmann, died at 65 years old from a massive pulmonary embolism on February 8th while preparing for his first surgery. His untimely passing shocks us all, makes us realize once again how little control we ultimately have over our lives, and reminds us how grateful we must be for every given day.

Paul Edelmann was a person whom everyone liked right away and whose patients felt comfortable in his proximity and care: self-contained and modest, warm-hearted and always friendly, loved by his wife and two children and his thousands of patients, tolerant, always collegial and humorous, but also direct and enthusiastic, as his many comments in the patient forums show. Always on the safe side, he did not use artificial fillers or silicone implants because of possible complications; he remained faithful to saline-filled breast implants even after their rehabilitation.

Born in Düsseldorf in 1955 and raised in the tranquil town of Grevenbroich, he passed the medical state examination in Mexico and the ECFMG examination in the USA in 1981, then qualified in Germany as a physician and earned his doctorate at the University of Düsseldorf. He became a specialist in surgery and then a specialist in plastic surgery after a broad training in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the Bergmannsheil in Bochum, and at the Main-Taunus-Kliniken in Hofheim.

As early as 1985, he started a private practice in the heart of Frankfurt with the patient motto "safety first." Paul didn't have to rattle off; he recruited his patients "by word of mouth" - and they loved him (rating 4.9 out of 5). His terrific wife, Hille, managed their practice from the beginning and initially supported him as a scrub nurse. Paul was a fighter all his life, but never took himself seriously, devoting all of his efforts to his patients and family. And Paul was afraid of nothing: in 2012, he fulfilled his lifelong dream by crossing the Atlantic from Mainz to Miami in his single-engine Cessna 210P.

As a member of Interplast-Germany, e.V., Dr. Edelmann led five Interplast missions between 2005 and 2013 to the city of Tomsk in Siberia, a largely closed stronghold of military research, where he operated on children with clefts and other deformities. His last mission took him to Sierra Leone in 2017. He is survived by his admirable wife and office partner Hille and his two children. His daughter Nicola is a urologist in Berlin; his son Lars is an orthopedic and trauma surgeon in Switzerland. All of us who knew Paul more closely will fondly remember his always positive and warm-hearted nature.