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# HAIR TRANSPLANT *forum* INTERNATIONAL



**Vale Manfred Lucas, MD 1938-1997**

*Contributed by Dowling B. Stough, MD*

**T**he field of hair transplantation lost one of its outstanding members, with the passing of Manfred Lucas on February 6, 1997. The community of hair restoration surgeons has been privileged to have a friend and a role model who willingly shared his knowledge and experience. Dr. Lucas was a soft-spoken man who received unprecedented respect from his peers. Manfred epitomized the term "a gentleman and a scholar." He was deeply loved by both his staff and his patients, and he treated all of those around him with respect.

Manfred was born May 28, 1938 in Pomerania, Germany, the second child of six (1 sister, 5 brothers). His father was a pastor. In 1954, the family moved to Westphalia, where Manfred went to school. He studied medicine from 1958 to 1964, and worked in various hospitals before gaining his doctorate in October, 1966. Manfred moved to Munich and worked from 1967 to 1973 in cardiac

surgery, where he assisted Professor Zenker in performing the first heart transplant in Munich. From 1973 to 1977, he was assistant medical director for the department of surgery in the surgical hospital of Holzkirchen (near Munich).

In the mid-1970s, Manfred became interested in hair transplantation as he himself was confronted with early baldness, and thus became enthusiastic about the concept of this form of treatment. On March 24, 1977, Manfred and a friend founded The Meditra clinic. Very soon, Manfred employed and trained additional physicians and started to develop specialized drills and other equipment for hair restoration surgery. During this same period, there were only a handful of surgeons in Germany performing traditional punch grafting or flaps. Some were also advocating dubious surgical procedures to "stop the balding process." In contrast, Dr.

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