

October 5, 2015

In Memory of Professor Andrea Ludolph

Dear ESSTS members,

We are deeply saddened to share with you the news about the loss of our very dear friend and colleague Professor Dr. med. Andrea Ludolph. She passed away suddenly on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at the age of 52. She became ill more than two years ago, but bravely fought against the disease. She was always full of hope that she would overcome the illness and would win this fight. Therefore, she was full of plans until very recently. This was still true in June this year, when most of us met her at the 1st World Congress on Tourette syndrome in London. We want to remember her for her numerous contributions over the years to ESSTS and her dedication to take further our mission for Tourette Syndrome.



Andrea was among the founding members of the European Society for the Study of Tourette Syndrome and actively supported our goals. Most recently, further demonstrating her strong belief in the idea of a European research society on Tourette Syndrome, she ignored her own limitations and accepted her election as an ESSTS board member in June 2015. During her academic career, she has strived for excellence and she has received numerous research grants and personal awards. For instance, In 2009 she was awarded the Kramer-Pollnow Research Prize andn 2011 she was awarded an extraordinary professorship. Most of us have heard her lectures many times and we all felt that she was truly outstanding. As a very successful academic teacher, she was highly regarded by her students in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Andrea was a marvellous clinical scientist. She was the head of the outpatient division at the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Clinic in Ulm, Germany. For many years she gave advice not only to children and adolescents with tic disorders, but also to their parents and relatives. She was very popular with her patients. However, she cared not only for patients with Tourette syndrome, but also for youngsters with ADHD. Furthermore, she recently established an outpatient department for children suffering from the very rare Phelan-McDermid Syndrome. Finally, she was well-aware about the most recent social changes and she encouraged the German Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to make recommendations on the growing problems associated with unaccompanied minor refugees. Andrea played a very active role with the national advocacy group, the German Tourette Society TGD. She organized multiple meetings and gave lectures for colleagues but also the general public and educators. Furthermore, she contributed to the publication of numerous information materials for patients in Germany.

As a researcher she was interested in several different aspects related to Tourette Syndrome and ADHD. She performed neuromaging studies and participated in several multi-center clinical trials. In line with her major motivation to train and educate young researchers, she was one of the leaders in the EU-funded Marie Curie Initial Training Network TS-EUROTRAIN. In the context of this network, she was mainly interested in the development of a new animal model for tic disorders that can be used to investigate the effects of different pharmaceuticals on the developing brain.

Many of us will remember Andrea for her energy, compassion, and strong sense of responsibility and commitment. Taking all these activities into consideration, one can hardly believe that at the same time she was the mother of four children. Andrea Ludolph was married to the neurologist Professor Albert Ludolph. She was a wonderful woman who always had time for friends. We remember Andrea as a keen sportswoman, always on the move and challenging herself through various sports. Some of us enjoyed to accompany her when jogging early in the morning before the first session of a conference. Andrea was a wonderful friend and colleague who touched many people's lives through her intellect, dynamism, kindness and countless contributions. We will miss her dearly and we will never be able to replace her.

Our thoughts are with her family, and we extend to them our deepest sympathies and condolences.

Renata Rizzo, Kirsten Muller-Vahl, Peristera Paschou