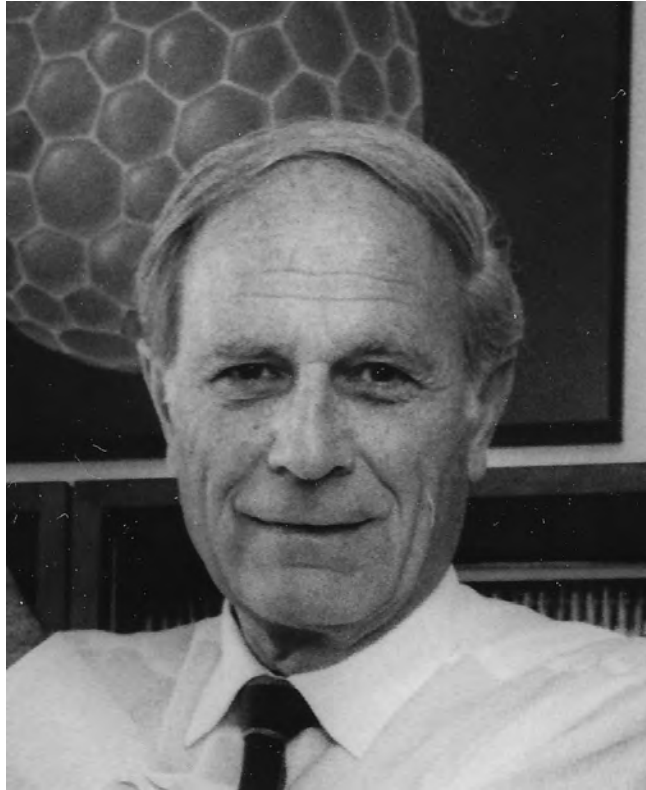


In Memoriam

Hugo Studer

(March 12, 1929 – October 7, 2025)



On October 7, 2025, Prof. Hugo Studer, renowned as one of Switzerland's leading personalities in internal medicine and thyroidology, passed away at the age of 96 years.

Hugo Studer was born in Lucerne, Switzerland, where he grew up and attended local schools, completing his baccalaureate in 1949. He pursued medical studies at the Universities of Freiburg and Basel between 1949 and 1955. After residency training in Geneva and Paris, he joined the Department of Internal Medicine in Berne as Attending Physician in 1960. A pivotal period was a research fellow with Monte Greer at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland from 1963–1964, before returning to Bern. He became Privatdozent in 1966 and soon was appointed co-director of Internal Medicine at the University of Bern, rising to full professor by 1970. He served as codirector of the Clinic for Internal Medicine until his retirement in 1994.

Hugo Studer's work encompassed a broad spectrum within thyroidology - from simple goiter to nodular goiter and thyroid cancer, iodine metabolism, treatment of Graves' disease with thionamides, and diagnostic imaging. He was especially enthralled by the cellular heterogeneity within thyroid follicles and the transition from simple to nodular goiter. Among other contributions, he and his collaborators demonstrated that thyroid follicular cells possess inherent functional and morphological heterogeneity within a follicle, with subsets exhibiting autonomous iodine uptake and growth despite the absence of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), and his group also revealed that multinodular goiters comprise true clonal nodules coexisting alongside hyperplastic polyclonal alterations.

He became involved with the European Thyroid Association (ETA) in its earliest days, joining only a year after its founding and participating in its inaugural meeting in 1967. For context, the ETA was founded in 1965 during the 5th International Thyroid Conference (ITC) in Rome, but notably, its first president Jean Roche took office, and the initial meeting took place only two years later.

As president of the local organizing committee, supported by Max-Pierre König as secretary, Hugo Studer hosted the 4th ETA Meeting in Bern in 1971. Among his many distinctions was the Ames–Miles Award, presented to him at the 1981 ETA Meeting in Pisa. The subject of his lecture was simple goiter, demonstrating that, contrary to its name, it involves a complex and multifaceted pathogenesis

Hugo Studer served on the ETA Executive Committee from 1969 to 1973 and later as president from 1986 to 1988. In this role, he helped advance iodine deficiency prevention through close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency (ICCID; now Iodine Global Network, IGN). Succeeded by Aldo Pinchera as president, he witnessed these efforts culminate in 1991 when the American Thyroid Association (ATA), Asian Oceanian Thyroid Association (AOTA), ETA, and Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS) jointly issued a global statement on the prevention of iodine deficiency disorders at the 10th ITC in The Hague, with Albert Burger, then secretary of the ETA, among the signatories.

While Prof. Studer is remembered for his distinguished reputation as a clinician, as well as his academic achievements and research contributions in thyroidology, his greatest legacy lies in the many trainees and collaborators he mentored, many of whom went on to become leaders in academia and clinical medicine in their own right.

Hugo Studer was an inspiration to us and to the many others who had the privilege of working with him, whether as colleagues or as mentees guided by his generous mentorship.

Hugo Studer is survived by his wife, his daughter, and two grandchildren.

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Division of Endocrinology
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Past Secretary ETA

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