

Frederick Epstein Obituary

Frederick Hermann Epstein, MD, 78, died Tuesday, May 23, 1995 at his home in Zurich, Switzerland. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany, educated in Zurich, and received his medical degree from Cambridge University.

Professor in the Institute of Preventive Medicine, University of Zurich, at the time of his death, he was for many years Professor at the University of Michigan where he directed the pioneering community-based Tecumseh Study.

During more than three decades, Fred Epstein was an active and devoted volunteer of the American Heart Association, first heading the Sub-Committee on Criteria and Methods of the Committee on Epidemiology Studies, a precursor of the present Council on Epidemiology and Prevention. In this capacity, he directed the well-known American Heart Association Pooling Project, the first statistical summary of cardiovascular disease risk based on extant U.S. cohort studies. He served as Chairman of the Council on Epidemiology in 1968 and 1969, and for almost two decades thereafter was International Editor of the Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology Newsletter.

Dr. Epstein had the longest and most intimate experience with the field of cardiovascular disease epidemiology, and played a central role in the origins and development of the field. He recently brought this experience to bear as co-author of a History of the Council on Epidemiology and Prevention published in the February 15, 1995 issue of *Circulation.*, and in a monograph of mortality trends in twenty-seven countries recently published by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

In addition to his important initiatives in research and his critical role in public policy for prevention of cardiovascular diseases, he made seminal contributions to understanding in a series of reviews, including observations on parallel mortality trends and commonality of risk characteristics for cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular diseases. He summarized these broad observations in his Ancel Keys Lecture given at the 1993 Annual Scientific Sessions in Atlanta.

Fred Epstein was a pioneer of the major new science of cardiovascular disease epidemiology. He had a profound understanding of its contributions, course, and participants. This, as well as his warmth toward, and encouragement of countless colleagues, is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife Doris, sons Andrew Epstein, MD of Birmingham, and Anthony C. Epstein of Bethesda, step-daughters Elisabeth Herrold and Doris Mueller of Zurich, grandchildren Phillip and Annatina Mueller of Zurich, Katherine and Claire of Bethesda, and Ann of Birmingham.

Interment was in Zurich, Switzerland, May 31st. The family suggests memorial contributions to the American Heart Association in North America and the Swiss Heart Foundation in Europe.

Henry Blackburn
University of Minnesota