

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH - Beat H. Walpoth, MD, PD, FAHA

Professional Education

Beat H. Walpoth, MD, PD, FAHA, is an Emeritus cardiovascular surgeon, past Director of Cardiovascular Research in the Department of Surgery at Geneva University Hospital, Switzerland. He obtained his medical degree in 1972 at the University of Zurich, followed by Board of Surgery (including thoracic and cardiovascular) in 1982. Postgraduate training included two years at the Peter Bent Brigham, a Harvard university hospital, Boston (1973-75) and cardiac transplantation at Stanford University (1982-84). Teaching appointments were held at Harvard Medical School, Universities of Bern and Geneva, Switzerland and in Verona University, Italy (Visiting Professor).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Founder and CEO of CardioBeat Sarl, a consulting company for cardiovascular research, bio- & med-tech
- Patent holder for novel dual-action coating for med-tech devices
- Cardiovascular research and development, experimental and clinical studies
- International contacts, congress organisation and good funding
- Past President of the European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO)
- Founder of the International Hypothermia Registry (IHR)
- Co-Founder of the International Symposium on Vascular Tissue Engineering

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- First-in-man introduction of hemofiltration during cardiopulmonary bypass (Zurich 1979)
- Team member of the first successful xeno heart transplant (Loma Linda 1984)
- First author of the New England Journal of Medicine article: Outcome of Survivors of Accidental Deep Hypothermia and Circulatory Arrest Treated with Extracorporeal Blood Warming (Bern, 1997)
- First transit-time flow measurement in cardiovascular surgery (Bern 1998) leading to Guideline Adaptation (2010 – 2014)
- Development of a novel bio-degradable synthetic tissue-engineered vascular graft and first publication of a drug-eluting vascular prosthesis

Professional Pathway

Dr. Walpoth is a recipient of several national and international awards, including the ESAO Wichtig, the ESAO Buecherl, ISAO, and the ESSR Lifetime Achievement Awards as well as the Derra Award for his research in transplantation and artificial organs. He has over 250 publications, of which more than 50 are first-author papers, in peer reviewed journals. Organizer of the Annual Congresses of the ESAO in 2000 in Lausanne, and 2008 in Geneva, as well as co-organiser of ESAO Winter Schools in 2007, 2008 and 2012. He has also been responsible for the bi-annual Swiss Experimental Surgery Symposium, SESS (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2016). Past President of the International Symposium on Vascular Tissue Engineering (ISVTE) and he created the TERMIS Thematic Group on Vascular Tissue Engineering. Editor of the Springer Reference Series book on 'Tissue Engineered Vascular Grafts' 2020.

Professional Expertise

His main areas of expertise (KOL):

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- Hypothermia for which he was the PI and lead author in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1979 for the introduction of cardiopulmonary bypass rewarming for accidental hypothermia victims in cardiac arrest.
- Coating for med-tech devices, vascular tissue engineering, cell therapy, angiogenesis, transplantation, blood flow measurements as well as bio-artificial cardiovascular support.

His future aims are med-tech innovations for cardiovascular devices and start-up creations as well as continuing international teaching, networking and consulting in the field of cardiovascular med-tech development.

