86 Publications of Prof. Reichertz from 1965 to 1987, listed in Gustav Wagner’s and Donald Lindberg’s Selected Bibliography

Comments by Reinhold Haux, Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Medical Informatics (PLRI), TU Braunschweig and Hannover Medical School, Germany, April, 2019. Appendix 11 to “On Analyzing the Scientific Publications of Peter Reichertz: Reflections in the Light of Medical Informatics Knowledge Today”.

In memoriam
Peter L. Reichertz

We sadly announce the death of Prof. Dr. Peter L. Reichertz, co-editor of this journal, on August 6, 1987. He was 57. The editors, publishers, and his colleagues deeply regret the loss of a friend.

The spectrum of scientific fields in which Peter Reichertz was competent was astonishing. It included his early interests, with which he never lost touch – pharmacology and drug research, cardiology and electrophysiology, endocrinology and general clinical medicine – and the fields with which the readers of this journal are especially familiar – computer diagnostics, research on health systems, hospital information systems, and practice-based computerized information systems.

Hermann Leo-Peter Reichertz, the son of Dr. med. Fritz Reichertz, a general practitioner, was born in Speicher in the Eifel on September 20, 1930. After finishing school in Bitburg/Eifel, Wernigerode, and Trier, he studied medicine in Mainz, Göttingen, Geneva, Cologne, Munich, and Bonn, where he passed his final examination in 1955. After serving his internship at the Medical University Hospital in Bonn and studying under scholarship at the Institute of Veterinary Pharmacology of the Free University of Berlin, he began special training in internal medicine under Prof. F. Tiemann at the Medical Polyclinic of Bonn University where he was awarded the venia legendi in 1964.

Although his early scientific interests focused on cardiology, electrophysiology, and drug research, he began to be fascinated with the potential of electronic processing of clinical data and research findings. Together with C. Winkler and G. Kloss, he published his first papers on computer diagnosis of thyroid diseases in 1965.

In the next year, Dr. Reichertz accepted an invitation from John E. Over at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and he took a position as Fellow in Internal Medicine and Associate Director of the Research Computation Center there. He devoted himself to computer applications, in particular vectorcardiographic investigations. The following year he accepted an offer as Associate Professor and Director of the Department of Radiology Computer Research at the University of Missouri (Columbia).

Dr. Reichertz arrived at the University of Missouri in time to join in the excitement of developing the U. S. Regional Medical Program. He began there his lifelong personal and professional relationship with Dean Vernon E. Wilson, Gwilyn Lodwick, and Donald Lindberg. Dr. Reichertz served consecutively as Associate Professor of Radiology, Associate Director of the Medical Computer Center, and Director of the University of Missouri Computer Center. He contributed substantially to the radiology diagnostic reporting system that became known as MARS, and also to developing the innovative operating systems that made possible the Missouri Integrated File of patient clinical and laboratory records. This constituted one of the earliest hospital information systems.

Through his extensive and influential publications he acquired an enviable international reputation. Thus, it is not surprising that when the new Medizinische Hochschule Hannover was searching for an experienced physician expert in medical informatics, the name of Peter Reichertz was at the top of the list and he was offered the position. Over the next several years he created the well-known “Medical System Hannover” (MSH), an inte-
grated hospital information system. In 1970, he was appointed Director of the Institute for Medical Informatics and Head of the Medical Computing Center of the Hochschule, functions he held until his premature death earlier this year.

In his 17 years at the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Peter Reichertz was known as an inspiring mentor who filled his colleagues and students with enthusiasm. He was a zealous promoter of medical informatics, organizing many congresses and seminars. He even managed to combine avocation and vocation; an enthusiastic private pilot, he became a certified civilian flight surgeon and a recognized expert in aviation medicine.

A special interdisciplinary interest of Peter Reichertz’s was the development of combined courses that would integrate medical informatics into both the study of medicine and the study of informatics. One result of this interest in training was the creation of the title “Certificate Specialist in Medical Informatics”. Four of his former students have gone on to become full professors of medical informatics.

His profound knowledge, his scientific activity, his diplomatic character, and his polyglot proficiency in German, English, and French predestined him for numerous high offices in national and international organizations. Thus, at various times, he was President of the German Society for Medical Documentation, Informatics, and Statistics, Vice President of the Working Group for Biomedical Information of the European Community, Chairman of the Committee for Medical Applications of the German Computer Sciences Association, and Vice President of Salutis Unitas. He was a founder of both the International Medical Informatics Association and the European Federation for Medical Informatics (of which he was the first President). In 1983 he founded the Professional Association of Specialists in Medical Informatics, a professional interest group in the Federal Republic of Germany, whose President he remained until his death. The New York Academy of Medicine made him a member. He was a member of numerous steering and program committees of international professional societies. His final commitment was as senior editor of the planned MEDINFO ’89 proceedings.

Peter Reichertz’s judgment on scientific questions was much sought after by government officials. He was a scientific consultant to health ministries in Germany, Iceland, countries in the Middle East, and the United States.

He leaves a legacy of 110 published scientific articles, 137 chapters in books, 17 books he authored or co-authored, and 36 other published reports, lectures, etc. Dr. Reichertz was co-editor of several well known series, including “Medical Informatics and Statistics” and “Lectures Notes in Medical Informatics”. He was on the editorial boards of five specialty journals. In his work with the Editorial Board of “Methods of Information in Medicine”, his expert opinions were always objective and professional; authors were grateful for his improvements in their manuscripts.

It was planned that Peter Reichertz should take over the editorship of “Methods” in 1988. Gustav Wagner, who has held the position for many years, would gratefully step down. Unfortunately, Atropos, the goddess of fate, stepped in.

The premature and unexpected death of Peter Reichertz is mourned by thousands of friends, pupils, and colleagues around the world. His passing leaves a gap in our professional ranks that will never be filled. He has done the profession great honor, and we honor his memory.

Gustav A. Wagner
Donald A. B. Lindberg

Peter L. Reichertz –
Selected Bibliography

I. Original Contributions


Reichertz, P. L.: Comparison of the Results of a Diagnostic Thyroid Program in two Different Populations. Radiology 91 (1968) 32–36.


