

MARIA LENGYEL, MD

In Memoriam: An Appreciation

Dr. Maria Lengyel was a pioneer of noninvasive techniques in her native Hungary. Despite local economic difficulties, she did not miss any scientific breakthrough in modern cardiology and made incredible efforts to implement them in her country. Maria fostered international dialogue with colleagues and spent time obtaining additional training internationally at institutions such as the Mayo Clinic Institution.

Dr. Lengyel introduced M-mode echocardiography as early as 1973 in Hungary, applying this technique to the follow-up of valvular prostheses. She mastered and vigorously championed application of two-dimensional echocardiography during the 80's and transesophageal echocardiography in the 90's. Dr. Lengyel published several research studies in international journals for the management and follow-up of prosthetic valve thromboses—including recommendations for the use of thrombolytic therapy—and for congenital lesions. She refined the strategy for atrial septal defect management—implementing screening for right-to-left inter-atrial shunting and integrating contrast agents into shunt detection.

Maria was an outstanding clinician, being in charge of a very active clinical department in the Hungarian Institute of Cardiology in Budapest. Combining her technical knowledge with her clinical competencies, she bridged advanced technology with daily clinical practice to the great benefit of patients. She also made major contributions to the development of European clinical guidelines related to thrombosis, infective endocarditis, and atrial fibrillation.

Maria demonstrated great capabilities for organizing educational symposia and meetings. In particular, the International Cardiac Doppler Society (ICDS) is grateful to her for her brilliant organization of the 6th ICDS Congress in Budapest, May 1-3 1992. The 6th ICDS Congress brought together a distinguished panel of international leaders from 13 countries, including the United States and Japan.

Last, but not least, Maria was a devoted wife (to Dr. Tamás Fenyvesi), as well as a warm, collegial friend to many in the international cardiology and echocardiography communities. We will miss her!