



Georg Friedrich Götz and the Establishment of a Foundation for Progress in Medicine



Georg Friedrich Götz was born on April 28, 1893, in Frankfurt am Main. He was successful in various areas of business, including managing a tobacco shop at a young age. Later, he ran his company, MDF (Mittel-Deutsche Fahrscheinfabrik), near Frankfurt, which printed tickets for buses and trams. Having become wealthy, Georg Friedrich Götz retired from active business life in the 1950s.

In 1960, he moved to Ascona, Switzerland, with his future wife, Heidi Hergenröther. Two years later, he fell ill with lung cancer and was transferred to Bethanien Hospital in Zurich for surgery, where Dr. Karl Müllly successfully operated on him. Following the operation, Götz developed a close friendship with Dr. Müllly, and together they came up with the idea of establishing a foundation to honor outstanding achievements in medicine.

On May 22, 1964, the Georg Friedrich Götz Foundation was officially established in Zurich. In 1968, Götz was hospitalized again, this time due to a serious intestinal illness. He was once more operated on by Dr. Müllly. After this second operation, Götz decided to activate the foundation the following year.

The first Georg Friedrich Götz Prize was awarded in 1969 to Professor Lindenmann from the Institute of Medical Microbiology for his groundbreaking research on cancer.

In 1972, Georg Friedrich Götz was diagnosed with prostate cancer, from which he did not recover. He died on November 21 of that year at the St. Agnese Clinic in Muralto and was buried in his parents' grave in Frankfurt-Griesheim, in accordance with his wishes.