



Juergen Willmann, MD

The Society of Abdominal Radiology recently learned of the tragic death by car accident of Juergen Willmann, MD, a treasured friend and colleague to many within the Society.

Following his childhood education through university in his native Germany, Juergen completed a Radiology residency in Zurich, Switzerland in 2003, where his exceptional intelligence and drive were recognized, leading to a faculty appointment. During a planned 2 year research sabbatical in molecular imaging at Stanford University, along with his equally accomplished wife, Amelie Lutz, MD, they were mentored by Sam Gambhir, MD, PhD who also recognized their brilliance, leading to a Stanford Radiology Department appointment for both Juergen and Amelie in 2008. Within an incredibly short period, Juergen was promoted to tenured Associate Professor (2010). Under the mentorship of Brooke Jeffrey, MD, Juergen broadened and deepened his clinical and administrative skills and was named the Abdominal (Body) Division chief in 2013, tenured Professor of Radiology in 2015, and Vice-Chair of the department in 2017.

Dr Willmann authored or co-authored more than 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts and even more scientific abstracts, many of them garnering awards from numerous American and European societies. He was an active participant and leader in many scientific societies, but was particularly devoted to the Society of Molecular Imaging and the Society of Abdominal Radiology.

Dr Willmann was an incredibly energetic, innovative and accomplished research scientist. At the time of his death he was the principle investigator for 10 active NIH-funded grants, along with 8 grants funded by foundations or industry. With Dr Gambhir remaining as his mentor, but developing an independent and large research group, Dr. Willmann became well known internationally for his work in molecular imaging, with a particular interest in ultrasound microbubble contrast media applications in oncology, especially tumor angiogenesis.

Everyone who worked with Juergen, from medical and grad students, technologists, residents, fellows and faculty loved him for his infectious warmth, enthusiasm and collegiality. While we mark his passing with heavy hearts, all his many friends and colleagues know that we have been blessed to have had this remarkable man in our lives.

He is survived by his wife, Amelie Lutz, MD and their two children, Alexander and Juliana, along with his parents, Elizabeth and Dr. Karl Willmann, and his sister, Sabine.