



*Dr. Richard Thiele MD
1954-2016*

Dear ISMST Family,

With the deepest sorrow we must inform you of the death of our great friend Richard Thiele, following a sudden collapse during a run in Berlin. All over the world, a cluster of memories sprinkled with tears, facing the loss of a truly marvelous human being.

Never selfish, always loving and kind, Ritschi was more than an extraordinary Doctor. He was a natural born leader, with an open mind and an unforgettable smile on his face. But most of all, he was the kind of friend you seed in your heart as a brother. Few people can be such an example of a great scientist, a loyal friend and an outstanding family person. Everyone who had the fortune to share a moment of his life can say without a doubt, that learned something and positively changed their own existence. Right now, it is hard to think of a better moment than sharing time with Ritschi in an operating room, an ESWT unit, a congress podium or around a table with a good wine. We are sure this is the way he wants us to remember him.

Throughout his life, Ritschi was a pillar to our society, constantly working on the development of Extracorporeal Shockwave Treatments. He was a co-founder of the ISMST, and acted as one of its most enthusiastic managing board members from its early beginnings, actively leading our society to its current strength. His selfless work for the progress of ESWT in Germany and worldwide, and his honesty were some of his most important character attributes, which were the base to solve many discussions and troubles in our societies and with our industrial partners.

The ISMST would not be what it is without Ritschi's energy and efforts. We will always admire his organizational capabilities, his leadership, and most of all, his gentleness, diplomacy and advice. He followed the dream of creating with a group of friends, a worldwide society that would provide the guidelines to preserve the Shockwave Medicine technologies. He was present from the first to the last directive meetings of our society, and this experience and knowledge gave us those final statements that only a real leader can provide.

Ritschi helped to open the world to ESWT. He was a permanent guest to Latin American and Asian meetings, and was always ready to support the creation, growth and development of scientific shockwave societies. He was an active supporter of the opening of the largest societies of ESWT in Latin America in Brasil, Chile and Colombia, as well as a mentor in the creation and growth of the Latin American Federation of Shockwave Medicine ONLAT.

We will always have him in our hearts, as an example of a great scientist and health professional, as a honest and powerful leader, as the best husband and father, and most of all, as a friend that was always ready to back you up and firmly shake your hand. The world lost a wonderful man and we all will miss a great friend. His passing leaves a great void in our souls, and in our society.

Our prayers are with Eva, Segej and Lina. May our thoughts carry you though the grief. You have been an endless source of support and encouragement to all of Ritschi's passions. We all, as friends and peers, are committed to preserve Richard Thiele's legacy forever.