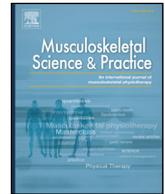


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Obituary for a great man who has left us, Freddy Kaltenborn (1923-2019)



Freddy Kaltenborn passed away peacefully on May 2nd at the age of 96. He has coined the development of Manual Therapy for more than half a century. One of his dreams was for there to be a high standard in Manual Therapy, and this was the reason for which he founded IFOMPT in 1973 together with Geoff Maitland, Greg Grieve and Stan Paris.

As a trainer and physiotherapist, Kaltenborn studied with Mennell, Cyriax, Stoddard and McConnail. He became a teacher of Cyriax's method, chiropractic and osteopathy and started his concept of Manual Therapy in 1954. He never stopped developing it from 1968 onwards with his colleague and friend Olaf Evjenth.

Well-known are the translatoric movements that Kaltenborn presented in his two books that became the "bible" for many manual therapists. Kaltenborn's focus was on function – structure was secondary. He followed a systematic scheme in examinations and treatments that is suitable for the construction of guidelines and standardized procedures. Vivid was his interest in science. In 1969 he did the first reliability study of segmental movements ([Kaltenborn and Lindahl, 1969](#)) – at a time where few physiotherapists did research. The scientific

validation of what Kaltenborn created is now our job!

Kaltenborn integrated valid scientific findings into his work, but was also critical of some. For example if there were doubts about the effectiveness of manipulation, he would ask whether the researchers were able to perform a good manipulation. Kaltenborn was an extraordinary master of this technique. He had the talent, the character, the passion and the energy for untiring practice – all the necessary attributes to become a master in a discipline. He eagerly advocated his traction manipulations in the resting position as a safe form of manipulation.

Germany was Kaltenborn's adopted homeland where he found his wife and with her the joy of his life. Nobody remained unaffected when they met him. For some, he was uncomfortable which is unavoidable when you fight for something. And Freddy fought successfully for his Manual Therapy approach. His teaching impressed thousands of physiotherapists worldwide. Freddy determined my personal career: He showed me that the more you study a topic the more you find interest in it – and through this Manual Therapy became my passion. You will continue living, Freddy, in our all heads, hearts and hands!

References

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