

## Obituary

---

Fritz Ottensooser

19 July 1891 – 24 December 1974

To readers of *Vox Sanguinis* the name of Dr. FRITZ OTTENSOOSER is familiar primarily because of his discovery that extracts of the seeds of *Vicia graminea* acted as a lectin of anti-N specificity. Thus, Dr. OTTENSOOSER was responsible for making available one of the most valuable lectins for use as a laboratory reagent and for research in the M-N blood types. Actually, while FRITZ OTTENSOOSER made outstanding contributions to the field of blood grouping, his interests encompassed many other fields as was well shown by the variety of subjects dealt with in his 134 scientific publications.

Dr. OTTENSOOSER was born in Nuremberg, Germany, and studied medicine in Munich, where he passed preliminary examinations in 1912, and continued his studies at the Universities of Berlin and Heidelberg. His degree of Dr. med., *magna cum laude*, was awarded in 1915 on the basis of a thesis on a pathological-anatomical subject. He then studied chemistry in the state laboratory in Munich, and in 1924, he was awarded a doctorate in chemistry, again *magna cum laude*, for a thesis on a serological-protein chemical subject.

He then undertook a variety of bacteriological-serological investigations. In 1930, at the Bern Institute of Infectious Diseases he worked with ZURUKZOGLAU on blood groups, mainly on theoretical aspects such as the statistical inferences to be drawn in paternity lawsuits.

In 1941, he emigrated to Brazil and worked there at the Laboratório Paulista de Biologia in São Paulo, where he remained active in research until his death at the age of 83 years. He married BERTA LEHMANN of Munich in 1921; she died on June 20, 1974, and they had no children.

The passing of Dr. OTTENSOOSER constitutes the loss of a medical scientist who remained active throughout his scientific life, and who will be remembered not only for his contributions to the field of blood grouping and blood transfusion, but also to bacteriology, immunology, oncology and protein chemistry.

Dr. FRITZ OTTENSOOSER will be remembered by his numerous students, associates, colleagues and friends who have benefitted from knowing him.

A. S. WIENER