

“Ernst Wertheim Award 2006” awarded to Prof. Dr. Andreas du Bois

At this year's annual meeting of the Austrian Working Group for Gynaecological Oncology in the Austrian Society for Gynecology and Obstetrics in Salzburg in May, the Ernst Wertheim Award was awarded to Professor Andreas du Bois, Director of the Clinic for Gynecology & Gynecological Oncology at the Dr. Horst Schmidt Clinics (HSK) Wiesbaden.

This award is presented every two years in honor of Ernst Wertheim (1864–1920, full professor in Vienna), the first to describe radical hysterectomy for cervical carcinoma and the founder of modern surgical therapy in gynecological oncology. The award is given for outstanding achievements that advance international standards and promote collaborative clinical research.

Professor du Bois was honored for his work in ovarian cancer within the German AGO Ovarian Cancer Study Group (AGO-OVAR), which has advanced the standard in both primary therapy and the treatment of recurrences. In addition, his contribution to the development of national and international study structures was honored. In this context, Professor du Bois hosted the 3rd International Consensus Conference 2004 in Germany with the participation of experts from international study groups from four continents. In addition to subject-related issues, Professor du Bois is also heavily involved in the structural improvements of gynecological oncological therapies. In addition to the national quality assurance programs led by him, this also includes the improvement of continuing education at national and European level. Within the framework of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO), he participates in accreditation procedures for gynecological oncology centers. He thus supports a further sub-specialization of the subject of gynecology, as has already been achieved in other disciplines such as internal medicine and surgery: “It is already hard to imagine today that a person can be a specialist in prenatal diagnostics and obstetrics in the morning, a specialist in in-vitro fertilization at noon, a urogynecologist in the afternoon, a psychosomatist in the evening, and an ovarian cancer surgeon or breast plastic surgeon at night – and meet all the requirements at the highest level as well as provide the quality that every patient rightly demands in each of the settings mentioned.”

His consistent commitment to the further development of clinical research and the improvement of the quality of care was recognized with the Ernst Wertheim Award 2006. He is the first German gynecologist to receive this prestigious international award. Predecessors of the award, which has been presented for the fifth time since 1998, include William Hoskins (Director of Gynecological Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York, USA), Luigi Benedetti-Panici (Director of the University Women's Hospital Rome, Italy), Ignace Vergote (Director of the University Women's Hospital Leuven, Belgium) and Claes Tropé (Director of Gynecological Oncology at Radium Hospital Oslo, Norway).