Professor Rettenmaier has as a pioneer and teacher in diagnostic ultrasound through many years, been a driving force in the field of ultrasound in medicine. Thus, he has given many colleagues both theoretical and practical education through lectures, courses, publications and books. Already in the early 1970’s professor Rettenmaier gave us knowledge and practical training through the basic and advanced courses in Böblingen which soon got a high reputation as “The Rettenmaier-Böblinger Ultrasound School”. In 1980 he was one of the founders of the journal “Ultraschall in der Medizin” which today probably is the most important European ultrasound journal. Also his ultrasound books are of great importance being continuously updated, and he was also president of DEGUM in the early 80’s.

Professor Rettenmaier and his ultrasound group, especially his close coworkers Priv.Doz. Karlheinz Seitz and Dr.med. Joachim Reuß have been of great importance for the development of clinical ultrasound in Norway, especially within the field of abdominal ultrasound and Doppler technology. Several Norwegian doctors have been invited as guests to Böblingen for longer stays or to take part in courses. Furthermore, professor Rettenmaier and his group have given many lectures in Norway and also invited Norwegian doctors as guest speakers to European school courses and DEGUM meetings.

Thus, “The Rettenmaier Group” has been very important for the ultrasound activity in Norway, particularly giving us the necessary background and help in establishing the Norwegian “National Centre for Ultrasound in Gastroenterology” in 2001.

Professor Rettenmaier, his wife Rotraud and their two daughters have through many years also been very helpful and friendly in personal matters, opening their home to Norwegian visitors, and they have also honoured the Norwegian Society, who nominated him for as an Honorary Member, by visiting Norway. Professor Rettenmaier’s skill as a musician also being an educated cantor has given us many great acoustic experiences in churches as well as in his home.

Prof Odd Helge Gilja
October 2013
Stuttgart, Germany

b 1929 – d 2015