



Prof. Dr. med. Hinrich Karsten Harms

\*25. August 1936 †15. Oktober 2025

We bid farewell to Professor Hinrich Karsten Harms, MD, who passed away on October 15, 2025, at the age of 89.

Professor Harms was one of the founding fathers of pediatric gastroenterology in Germany. From the very beginning, he sought treatment options for children with chronic diarrhea and failure to thrive by systematically investigating the diagnostic options available at the time, improving them, and then establishing them for widespread use in clinics.

In the early days, celiac disease was one of his main areas of focus, later followed by chronic inflammatory bowel diseases, for which he established pediatric endoscopy at the children's hospital. Early on, Professor Harms made it his life's work to devote himself to the then still very unknown clinical picture of cystic fibrosis. Only through his tireless efforts outside of medicine and close cooperation with the newly initiated parents' association at the time was he able to create the necessary care structures for this group of patients and establish one of the first CF specialist outpatient clinics in Germany.

Long before the introduction of the professional title “pediatric gastroenterology,” Professor Harms represented this field in Germany and internationally, very early on as head of the Department of Pediatric Gastroenterology at Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital in Munich.

In all his work, his priority was always the well-being of his patients, young and old, whom he sought to treat not only with professional competence, but also with fatherly care and benevolent strictness. His great ambition was to explore new avenues of treatment, drawing on research and working with an interdisciplinary team, in order to give his patients a longer life and a better quality of life.

He succeeded in this so impressively that he significantly shaped pediatric gastroenterology over decades and has influenced many people, patients, parents, and employees to this day.

His pioneering spirit, his humanity, and his professional expertise will be remembered. His work has left a lasting mark.