Temporal witnesses about the evolution of interventional cardiac catheterisation for CHD: Interview with K. Amplatz (Minessota,USA)

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Background
The German Society of Paediatric Cardiology (DGPK) has started a project to document important developments of Paediatric Cardiology over the last 5 decades in Europe. Honorary members of DGPK are considered as leading pioneers of the evolving speciality of Paediatric Cardiology beginning in 1960. For the time being our German society (DGPK) has 7 honorary members (age > 70 years). One of them is e.g. Kurt Amplatz (Minnesota, USA).

Aim
The aim of this project was to interview these temporary witnesses and to document their influence in establishing this new field of Paed. Cardiology.

Method
An interview with standardised questions was performed with each of the honorary members. The interviews were recorded on video. As an example of such an interview we will present video-sequences and photos from the interview with Kurt Amplatz (recorded in Germany, October 2012).

Interview with K. Amplatz
K. Amplatz was born 1925 in Austria. After his study of medicine in Innsbruck (Austria) in 1951, he immigrated into the USA in 1952. He thought to have better possibilities “in the new world” to work in an innovative surrounding. He considers himself as a tinkerer and experimenter since his childhood. From 1957 up to his retirement in 1999, he was appointed as a professor in Radiology, University of Minnesota (USA). During this time up to now he has invented numerous new devices to improve cardiac catheter technique e.g. specially shaped diagnostic cardiac catheters, heparin coated guide-wires, retrieval and occlusion devices. His most famous inventions were the Amplatzer devices for the occlusion of ASD, PDA, vessels and VSD. To manufacture these devices he founded the AGA Company starting in a garage with an initial investment of 300 Dollar in 1995. Nowadays K. Amplatz is worldwide acknowledged as a one of the leading pioneers for interventional cardiology for CHD holding more than 30 patents.

Conclusion
This interview shows exemplary the importance to document the experience and opinion of leading contemporary witnesses about the evolution of interventional cardiology for CHD.