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In Memoriam**Dieter Enzmann, MD (1945–2026)**

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Dr. Dieter R. Enzmann, who led UCLA's Department of Radiological Sciences for 25 years and transformed it into one of the nation's leading academic radiology programs, passed away peacefully on June 18, 2026, at the age of 80.

Born in Germany, Dr. Enzmann came to the United States with his family at around the age of 10, eventually settling in Wisconsin. He often recalled Christmas shopping at Obletter Spielwaren, the beloved Munich toy store, a tradition that remained special to him throughout his life.

Even as a boy he displayed the curiosity and analytical mindset that would define his career. He would ride his bicycle to local car dealerships, collect brochures on the newest models, and return home to present detailed arguments to his father for why the family should purchase a 1968 Pontiac GTO, a campaign that ultimately proved unsuccessful and remained a source of good-humored regret for decades.

He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison before earning his medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine in 1973. During his student years he worked as a bartender and bouncer to help support himself, experiences he often recounted with characteristic enthusiasm.

His interests were broad and without pretension. He loved Led Zeppelin and Billy Idol in roughly equal measure, kept York Peppermint Patties in his office drawer, and never passed up a good schnitzel. His favorite was the Ratskeller in Munich, and colleagues traveling with him in Europe knew that any itinerary he influenced would almost certainly include both the restaurant and a return visit to the toy store.

Dr. Enzmann completed his residency in diagnostic radiology at Stanford from 1974 to 1977, training that launched a distinguished career in



neuroradiology. He remained at Stanford as a professor of neuroradiology before being named chair of the Department of Radiology at Northwestern University, a position he held for five years. In 2000, he was recruited to UCLA as chair of Radiological Sciences, bringing with him an unusual blend of clinical, scientific, and administrative expertise that was further informed by a sabbatical at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Over the 25 years that followed, Dr. Enzmann expanded UCLA's department considerably. During his tenure, the faculty grew from 62 members, including 13 PhD scientists, to more than 150 faculty, including 21 PhDs. The department expanded from two hospitals to four and developed a network of imaging centers spanning the greater Los Angeles region. He also established around-the-clock, in-house clinical coverage and oversaw growth of the residency program to 48 trainees rotating across four hospitals.

He was equally committed to building UCLA's research enterprise. Under his leadership, the department expanded its basic science footprint and forged a long-standing collaboration with Siemens Healthineers that supported advances in imaging technology and tissue characterization. The department launched the Integrated Diagnostics Program linking imaging and pathology, established the Center for Computer Vision and Imaging Biomarkers, expanded medical imaging informatics and magnetic resonance research programs, developed a robust clinical trials infrastructure, and created a competitive peer-reviewed seed funding program that launched the careers of numerous junior investigators.

On the educational side, Dr. Enzmann championed a "Teach the Mentor" program to strengthen mentorship across the faculty and founded the *UCLA Radiological Sciences Proceedings* as a venue for faculty scholarship.

He was also a remarkable mentor. Faculty members still recall his direct advice, practical wisdom, and the diagrams he would sketch on a notepad to distill complex problems into a few simple ideas. One lesson he frequently imparted was that leaders should wear a tie. I still do to this day, and I think of Dieter every time I put one on.

By the time of his retirement in 2025, UCLA Radiological Sciences had become one of the largest and most respected academic radiology departments in the nation, scientifically ambitious, clinically innovative, and shaped by generations of faculty and trainees who benefited from his leadership.

Outside of medicine, Dieter was known for his wide-ranging intellectual curiosity, including a lifelong interest in the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer. He often quoted Schopenhauer's observation that "every man takes the limits of his own field of vision for the limits of the world" a sentiment that reflected both his intellectual openness and his willingness to challenge assumptions.

In announcing Dr. Enzmann's transition from the chair role in 2025, Dr. John Mazziotta, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health, highlighted his many years of exceptional leadership and described his contributions to the research, teaching, and clinical missions of UCLA as among the most distinguished of his generation.

While Dr. Enzmann's accomplishments can be measured in faculty recruited, programs created, trainees educated, and discoveries advanced; his most enduring legacy is the community of physicians, scientists, educators, and leaders he helped shape. The department he leaves behind stands as a testament to his vision, intellectual rigor, and unwavering commitment to academic medicine.

He is survived by his wife, Diana, and their daughter, Brisa, and other family members.

*Jonathan Goldin, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Radiological Sciences*