

«The highest activity a human being can attain
is learning for understanding,
because to understand is to be free»
Spinoza



Todesanzeige

John Carl Anderson

BSc. (Hons) MSc., PhD
26.4.1955 – 11.8.2024

John was a proud Yorkshireman, born and raised in Kingston upon Hull, U.K. He studied Psychology and Anthropology at Oxford Polytechnic and then joined a group at Oxford University who were pioneering studies of the structure and function of the cerebral cortex. He was one of the core group that founded the Institute of Neuroinformatics in Zurich in 1995.

John's artistic and scientific interests merged in a novel and creative way as he used light and electron microscopes to reconstruct the fine structure of individual cortical neurons and so produce a portfolio of images of neurons that is unmatched in the modern age. Not only did his drawings form the structural basis of a comprehensive new understanding of cortical circuits and were widely published, their compelling aesthetic qualities led to them being exhibited in museums in Europe and the USA. As a neuroscientist and teacher of the Alexander Technique, he imparted his skills and deep knowledge with humour, modesty, and generosity.

John leaves his wife, Ruth, who supported him with unbounded love and compassion during his long illness, and a diaspora of admirers of his unique contributions to neuroscience.

We are losing a dear friend but the countless memories bring a smile onto our faces and our hearts are full of love.

Zurich, August 15th, 2024

Institute of Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich/ETH Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse
190, 8057 Zürich