

[Click here to view linked References](#)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

## **Richard Stern (1878–1942)**

Lazaros C. Triarhou

ORCID 0000-0001-6544-5738

University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

triarhou@uom.edu.gr

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

This paper pays tribute to the academic life and work of yet another victim of the Holocaust, the neurologist and neuropathologist Richard Stern of the University of Vienna. Moreover, it rectifies some bibliographic inaccuracies regarding the publications of authors with the same last name.

The son of a merchant, Stern was born in Vienna on 29 March 1878. He entered the School of Medicine of the University of Vienna in 1896, graduating with an M.D. degree in 1902 [1]. During the following two years, he worked as a research assistant (*Aspirant*) at the First University Clinic of Internal Medicine that was headed by Hermann Nothnagel (1841–1905).

In 1904 Stern became an assistant to Lothar von Frankl-Hochwarth (1862–1914) in the Outpatient Neurology Division of the First Medical Clinic. In 1909, Stern assumed the post of director (*Vorstand*) of the Department of Neurology in the First Austrian Children’s Hospital and established himself (*Privatdocent*) in neuropathology with a dissertation on the *Differential Diagnosis and Course of Basedow Disease* (or Graves disease) [2]. He conducted this work at the First Clinic of Internal Medicine headed by Carl von Noorden (1858–1944), who had succeeded Nothnagel as chairman in 1906.

Stern lectured on nervous diseases at the University of Vienna from 1913 until 1938, with an interruption during World War I, having been called up for military duty from January 1915 until May 1918 at the *Konstatierungsstation* (Diagnostic Station) of Siegmund Erben (1863–1942) [3]. Stern received the Honour Decoration–2nd Class of the Red Cross with the Crown in 1915, an honourable recognition by the Vienna Military Command in 1916, and the Golden Cross of Merit with the Ribbon of the Medal of Bravery with the Crown in 1918 [4].

After the death of Frankl-Hochwarth [5] Stern became director of the Outpatient Neurology Division of the First Medical Clinic in 1918 and a year later he was appointed chief physician of the General Pension Institute (*Allgemeine Pensionsanstalt*) and associate professor (*Extraordinarius*) of neuropathology at the University of Vienna.

Of the 24 papers listed by Kreuter [3] under ‘Richard Stern’, only 15 actually belong to Richard Stern of Vienna. These include: ‘Familial nocturnal enuresis’ (1905), ‘Vibration and muscle sensation’ (1906), ‘Pick bundle (corticenuclear fibres recurving rostrally from the pyramidal tract in the medulla oblongata) with an unusual course’ (1907), ‘Form and size of spinal cord cross-sections’ [6], ‘On sleep preparation’ (1908), ‘The preactive stress’ (1908), ‘A

1 static theory of epilepsy' (1909), 'The prognosis of epilepsy' [7], 'On a paralyzing type of  
2 infantile hemiplegia' (*Festschrift* for Frankl-Hochwart) [8], 'A temporary phenomenon of  
3 infantile hemiplegia' (1910), 'Manifestations of migraine' (1910), 'Clinical studies on the  
4 future of children with spinal and cerebral paralysis' [9], and 'The origin of anxiety' (1920).  
5

6  
7 Of the remaining papers that Kreuter [3] lists, a monograph *On the Physical*  
8 *Characteristics of the Disposition to Tabes Dorsalis* (Deuticke, Leipzig, 1912) was actually  
9 written by a different Richard Stern (1865–1911), the German internist in Breslau [10].  
10  
11 'Occurrence of iron-containing pigment in the cerebrospinal fluid' (1928) was co-authored by  
12 the Viennese neurologists Robert Stern (1895–?) and Alexander Pilcz (1871–1954). Two  
13 papers dated 1923 belong to Rudolf Stern (1895–1962) in Breslau, son of Richard Stern the  
14 internist: 'Some new studies on the Wassermann reaction in the cerebrospinal fluid' was co-  
15 authored with Margarete Stern (1867–1941), director of the Serological Department of the  
16 University Clinic of Dermatology headed by Josef Jadassohn (1863–1936) in Breslau; and  
17 'Colloidal chemical observations on arsphenamine (compound 606) and neoarsphenamine  
18 (compound 914)' was co-authored with the chemists Herbert Freundlich (1880–1941) and  
19 Hans Zocher (1893–1969) of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for Physical Chemistry and  
20 Electrochemistry in Berlin-Dahlem. Lastly, three papers dated 1924 ('The Wassermann  
21 reaction and the risk of infection for syphilitics', 'The Klausner reaction', and 'Isolation and  
22 determination of the complement-binding substance of syphilitic sera') belong to professor  
23 Stern, director of the Dermatology Clinic of the Düsseldorf Medical Academy.  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37

38 The neuropathologist Richard Stern was an active member of the Society for Psychiatry  
39 and Neurology and the Medical Association of Vienna [1]. Following the annexation of  
40 Austria, his *Venia legendi* (authorisation to teach) was revoked by the National Socialists on  
41 29 July 1938 and he was expelled from the University because of his Jewish background [4].  
42 On 1 September 1942 Stern was deported to Bratislava, on to the Sereď labour camp in the  
43 Slovak state, and transported, two weeks later, via Sillein (Žilina) to Auschwitz, where he was  
44 exterminated on 13 October 1942, while in the 65th year of his life (Fig. 1).  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflicts of interest** The author declares no conflict of interest.

**Ethical standards** This study was performed in accordance with ethical standards.

## References

1. Angetter D (2008) Stern Richard, Neurologe und Pathologe. Österreichisches Biographisches Lexikon 1815–1950, Band 13, p 229–230. doi: 10.1553/0x00284e98. Accessed 22 Jan 2018
2. Stern R (1909) Differentialdiagnose und Verlauf des Morbus Basedowii und seiner unvollkommenen Formen. Deuticke, Vienna
3. Kreuter A (1996) Deutschsprachige Neurologen und Psychiater. Saur, Munich
4. Merinsky J (1980) Die Auswirkungen der Annexion Österreichs durch das Deutsche Reich auf die medizinische Fakultät der Universität Wien im Jahre 1938. Doctoral Dissertation, Geisteswissenschaftliche Fakultät der Universität Wien, Vienna
5. Triarhou LC (2018) Lothar von Frankl-Hochwart (1862–1914). *J Neurol* 265:3036–3037
6. Stern R (1907) Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Form und Grösse des Rückenmarksquerschnittes. *Arb Neurol Inst Univ Wien* 14:329–372
7. Stern R (1909) Zur Prognose der Epilepsie. *Jahrb Psychiatr Neurol* 30:1–40
8. Stern R (1909) Über einen Lähmungstypus bei der infantilen Hemiplegie. *Wien Klin Rundschau* 23:789–791
9. Stern R (1911) Klinische Studien über die Zukunft nervenkranker Kinder mit spinalen und zerebralen Lähmungen. *Jahrb Psychiatr Neurol* 32:139–308
10. Koren N (1973) *Jewish physicians: a biographical index*. Israel Universities Press, Jerusalem

**Fig. 1** The record on professor Richard Stern (1878–1942), reproduced from the Database of Holocaust Victims kept at the Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance ([www.doew.at](http://www.doew.at))

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

# DOEW

■ ■ Dokumentationsarchiv  
des österreichischen  
Widerstandes

## ■ ■ Stern Richard

Vorname	Richard
Nachname	Stern
Geburtstag	29.03.1878
Geburtsort	Wien
Wohnort	Bratislava, Grösslingova Strasse 51
Sterbedatum	13.10.1942
Sterbeort	Auschwitz
Deportation	Bratislava/Sered
Deportationsdatum	01.09.1942
Überstellung	Zilina/Auschwitz
Datum der Überstellung	18.09.1942