

OBITUARY

**Maria Kuhnert-Brandstätter
1919 ~ 2011**

Maria Kuhnert-Brandstätter, professor emerita of pharmacognosy at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, died in April, 2011. She was 91.

Prof. Kuhnert-Brandstätter was born in Salzburg, Austria, on December 23, 1919. She studied at the Faculty of Science of the University of Munich, and continued to study pharmacy and pharmacognosy in Vienna before graduating from the University of Innsbruck in 1942. The first of her several hundred published research papers appeared in 1941 and described the thermomicroscopical characterization of drug substances.

In 1945, she was appointed head of the Institute of Pharmacognosy at the University of Innsbruck, where she was on staff together with Ludwig and Adelheid Kofler. Prof. Kuhnert-Brandstätter and the Koflers are

noted for their work on thermomicroscopy and microchemical investigations of natural and synthetic drug substances, and the use of the hot stage microscope (“Koflersches Thermomikroskop”) and the hot bench (“Koflersche Heizbank”) for the analysis of microscopic quantities of pharmaceuticals.

Prof. Kuhnert-Brandstätter was best known for her extensive research on the polymorphism of organic substances. She was honored by many European and American societies and was the first to receive, in 1976, the State Microscopical Society of Illinois Certificate of Merit and Honor for the Advancement of the Art and Science of Microscopy. In 2000, Prof. Kuhnert-Brandstätter received the Ernst Abbe Memorial Award from the New York Microscopical Society.