

BRW Lab

Biological Rhythms & Wellbeing



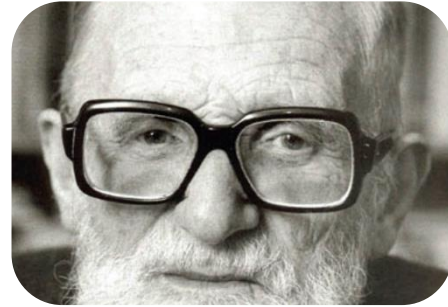
**Some noted Austrian pioneers in circadian rhythm research**



Otto Marburg  
(1874-1948)



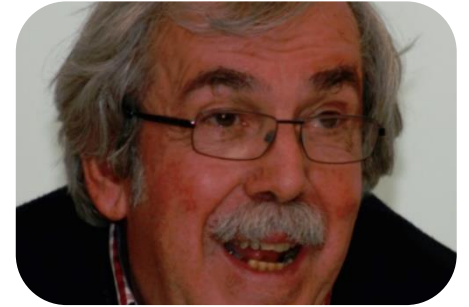
Robert Hofstätter  
(1883-1970)



Paul Engel  
(1907-1997)



Vera Lapin  
(1920-2007)



Franz Waldhauser  
(\*1946)



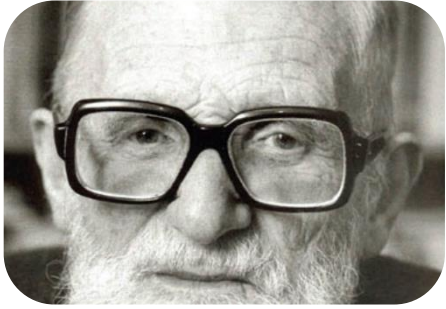
Otto Marburg  
(1874-1948)

**Otto Marburg** was born on May 25, 1874 in Römerstadt (Austria-Hungary) as the son of a Jewish factory owner and received his doctorate in medicine in Vienna in 1899. He was a professor of neurology both in Vienna and New York City, an author of numerous papers on topics covering neurology and neuropathology as well as the pathology of the pineal gland (epiphysis). After the annexation of Austria in 1938, he emigrated to the United States.



Robert Hofstätter  
(1883-1970)

**Robert Hofstätter**, born April 13, 1883 in Vienna, studied medicine in Vienna and Heidelberg. Graduating in 1907 in Vienna he had a number of distinguished teachers including Chrobak, von Rosthorn, Wertheim and Esdelsberg. In 1919 he was appointed to the training staff in obstetrics and gynaecology. Professorships were awarded in 1939 and 1951. Standing out amongst his 228 scholarly articles is his pioneering work in endocrinology, on the pituitary and pineal glands and, not least the health of working women, smoking-related illnesses and cancer.



Paul Engel  
(1907-1997)

**Paul Engel** (pseud. Diego Viga), born in 1907, was trained as a physician at University of Vienna (M.D., 1933). After completing his Doctorate, Engel practiced as a surgeon at the Vienna University Surgical Clinic with the aim of establishing a branch as a gynecologist; at the same time he continued his hormone research. After the domestic political situation, especially for the Austrian Jews, Engel decided to go abroad. In 1938, he emigrated to Colombia. he became professor of endocrine biology, anthropology, and psychology at Univ. Libre de Colombia. In 1950, he moved to Ecuador and carried out research in endocrinology, pharmacology, and cancer at Laboratories Life (1951-77); member of faculty at Univ. Central de Ecuador School of Medicine. Paul Engel, who's author pseudonym was "Diego Viga" has, among other things, foreseen the control of the pineal gland through light.



Vera Lapin  
(1920-2007)

### **Vera Lapin - Scientific Mother**

Vera Lapin, born in 1920, worked at the Vienna Cancer Research Institute in the 1970s, rediscovered the pioneering work of Bergmann, Engel and Hofstätter on the role of the pineal gland and malignancy and herself performed outstanding experiments in this field. A central finding was that surgical removal of the pineal gland (pinealectomy) stimulated both primary tumour growth and formation of metastases thus leading to reduced survival. She encouraged many of the younger students to take up this topic and became a “Scientific Mother” (mentor). She died in 2007 and will always be remembered with gratitude, respect and admiration.



Franz Waldhauser  
(\*1946)

**Franz Waldhauser** was born in Vienna in 1946. He is a specialist in paediatric and adolescent medicine with particular focus on child hormone disorders. He has worked intensively on melatonin research in connection with night work. As a specialist in paediatrics, he was deputy head of the department for general paediatrics until 2003, and a member of the University Clinic for children and Adolescent Medicine at the Vienna General hospital until 2009 and his scientific work refers to over 200 publications.