

Rolf Kinne, Evamaria Kinne-Saffran and the History of Nephrology:

Rolf Kinne was born in Berlin, Germany, during World War II and spent his youth in the after war period in the Western part of this city. He studied Medicine and Chemistry at the Free University of Berlin and obtained his M.D. in 1967.

During high school he met Evamaria Saffran whom he married in 1966. Evamaria Kinne-Saffran, as she was known from then on, studied first Jewish History and then Medicine, where she graduated in 1966. Together they went to Frankfurt to the Max Planck Institute of Biophysics, then joined the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and finally were leading figures at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Physiology in Dortmund, Germany.

Their scientific work concentrated on the elucidation of the membrane-molecular aspects of renal epithelial transport processes but in later years, due to Eva's continuing interest in History, the roots of the anatomy, biochemistry, and pharmacology of the kidney in the 19th century also caught their attention. Eva served as counsellor in the IAHN and at the time of her untimely death in 2002, she was working on the history of the German Society of Nephrology. Rolf Kinne is continuing her legacy and is the sponsor of the Evamaria Kinne-Saffran Lectureship for the promotion of Historical Sciences in Nephrology.