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his is a photograph of Rudolph Virchow (1821–1902), founder of modern cellular pathology and a principal figure in the development of the science of pathology. Virchow was an outspoken advocate for public health. His writings and teachings are fundamental to the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.

Rudolph Virchow

Myron Schultz

Communications about ways to improve people's health by improving their economic and social conditions. He entered politics in 1841 as a member of the German National Assembly while also directing the Pathological Institute in Berlin. He helped to shape the healthcare reforms introduced in Germany during the administration of Otto von Bismarck. His prolific writings, while mainly on topics of pathology, included many essays and addresses on social medicine and public health.

Among Virchow's many interests was helminthology. He described the life cycle of the roundworm Trichinella spiralis in rats and its zoonotic consequences. He was opposed to Bismarck's excessive military budgets, which angered Bismarck sufficiently to challenge Virchow to a duel. Bismarck, being entitled under the laws to bring three, chose two pork sausages: a cooked sausage for himself and an uncooked one, loaded with pork tapeworm larvae, for Bismarck. The Iron Chancellor, declared the pork sausages deadly.

Virchow also contributed substantially to the fields of anthropology, paleontology, and archeology. It should be noted that even men of great accomplishment, like Virchow, are fallible. Virchow believed that the Neanderthal man was a member of the modern species Homo sapiens, whose deformations were caused by ticks in childhood and retardation later in life, with the deformed skull due to powerful blows to the head. Subsequent discoveries and research showed that the Neanderthals are, instead, ancient humans.

Dr. Schultz is a senior medical officer, Division of Health Studies, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Formerly, he was director, Parasite Division, Epidemiology and Control Branch, Office of Public Health Science, CDC. Dr. Schultz has a public health service career of 26 years. He has served as chief of the Parasitic Diseases Division, Epidemiology and Control Branch, CDC, since 1999. He was the first chief of the Parasitic Diseases Division. His previous assignments include chief of the Parasitic Diseases Laboratory and scientific advisor to the agency's Director.

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