Speech on 20 May 1991 at the Faculty of Mathematics in Kaliningrad on the occasion of the honouring of David Hilbert:

The beginnings of haematology in the 19th century at the Institute of Pathology in Königsberg

Dear Mr Dean, dear Mr Vice-Rector, ladies and gentlemen

It is a special honour for me, on the occasion of the naming of this auditorium after the German mathematician David Hilbert. I listened with great interest to the the presentations on David Hilbert, F.W. Bessel and Franz Neumann.
You might think that the Faculty of Medicine has always been a little in the shadow of the famous philosophical and and mathematical-physical faculties.
However, it is well worth shedding some light on this shadow:
One will then realise that renowned physicians have worked here. I need only remind you of the discovery of the ophthalmoscope by H. v. Helmholtz (1821 - 1894), the first description of the mammalian egg by K. E. v. Baer (1792 - 1876) based on his research on embryos, the discovery of the embryos, the discovery of the influenza bacillus by Richard Pfeiffer (1858-1928).
Due to the short time available, you will understand that I can only say a few sentences about the scientist Ernst Neumann, about whom I have published a monograph:

Ernst Neumann, born on 30.1.1834 in Königsberg, died on 6.3.1918 in Königsberg, was the first to first described the bone marrow as blood producing organ, published on 10.10.1868.
To mark this 100-year anniversary, a publication appeared in the USA publication in 1968, by an American haematologist named George Rosenow. As the University of Kaliningrad was not accessible at that time, and in Germany there was no interest in this subject, I was given the task of researching for this "Virchow of the East", as he was often was often called(1). On the basis of a large number of old publications and a dissertation on Ernst Neumann it was possible to bring the full significance of his scientific results to life again:
As early as 1869, Ernst Neumann described bone marrow-induced leukaemia and established a blood cell family tree from a stem cell, which is today , after a long period of aberration, once again highly topical.

Ernst Neumann was the originator of the "law of centripetal developmental direction of fat marrow substitution" and the centrifugal bone marrow formation in anaemia. Parallel to this studies were carried out on the haematopoietic pigments, e.g. Neumann's "haemosiderin" and the theory of inflammation.

The "pernicious anaemia" was further – with others - elucidated by Neumann. Neumann's studies were a breakthrough in the field of haematology.

The "Neumann School" (Askanazy, Geneva) went via M. Askanazy, Geneva, R. Beneke, Marburg, P. v.Baumgarten,Tübingen and Kaiserling, Königsberg. This school provided new impulses for the German-speaking universities.

You may now ask why it is so important to remember the
the discovery of the bone marrow – otherwise someone would have discovered it, as the Italian Italian L. Bizzozero on the basis of mature studies.
That may be true and applies to all scientific findings. However, today, we are able to carry out bone marrow transplants, with moderate success, Without basic research there can be no future-orientated development, no new impetus for the next generations!

The University of Kaliningrad is particularly honoured to recognise that it is precisely in this research to get a leading position in Europe. On the occasion of the forthcoming anniversary of this university - it was founded in 1544 - I would like to conclude with the suggestion: Let us together with colleagues from Europe celebrate a festival in 1994. I will be happy to assist you in finding partners, as far as this is possible for me and you wish it.

Thank you for your attention.

E. Neumann-von Meding
Dr.med. Eberhard Neumann-von Meding
Chief Physician of the Gynaecological Clinic
Bethel Hospital
D-3062 Bückeburg