

# Short portrait Otto Brändli



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**Otto Brändli** (\*1942) spent his youth in Bauma, in the Tössstal region on the Eastern border of canton Zurich. The families of both of his parents were documented in the town of Wald as farmers in Church records dating back to 1526.

He graduated in 1961 as one of the first high school students at the newly opened Gymnasium Zurich Oberland in Wetzikon. Influenced by his father's diagnosis of tuberculosis, he switched from studying mathematics at ETH Zurich to medicine. He studied in Zurich, Vienna and Montpellier. During his fellowship as pulmonologist, he gained crucial experience at Bellevue Hospital in New York from 1973-75. Unfortunately, already licensed to practice, he was denied access to the pulmonary Board Examination by Dean Saul Farber at NYU and had to return to Switzerland.

From 1977 until 2007 he was chief physician and medical director at the Zurich Höhenklinik in Wald, a former TB sanatorium at 900 meters above sea level, which he turned it into a modern rehabilitation center and where he trained 279 MD's. He came back many times to New York for sabbaticals and continuing education. After retiring, he continued to work as a deputy in hospitals and practices, most recently in the family practice ApoDoc at the Hardbrücke train station in Zurich.

He was the local project leader of the Swiss study on air pollution and lung diseases (SAPALDIA), president of the Zurich Lung Association and the Swiss TB foundation. Today he is founder and president of the Swiss Lung Foundation [www.swisslung.org](http://www.swisslung.org) and lives in Zurich.

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