Eponyms in pathology...

RICKETTS, Howard Taylor (1871-1910) was an American microbiologist and epidemiologist who qualified from Northwestern university in 1897, later working in the department of pathology at the university of Chicago. He carried out important field studies on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and showed that the causative organism is transmitted to man by the bite of a wood tick. These small bacillus-like parasites were grouped together under the name rickettisia by Da Rocha-Lima in honour of Ricketts. Ironically, he died of typhus fever (another rickettsial infection) while studying it in Mexico City in 1910.

ASKANAZY, Max (1865-1940) was a Swiss pathologist, born in East Prussia, and educated in Konigsberg, West Germany. He became professor of general pathology in Geneva in 1905, and his major contributions were in the fields of haematology, parasitology, and oncology. His description of the large granular eosinophilic cell derived from the thyroid follicular epithelium is the same as that of Hürthle (a German histologist, 1860-1945) and the two eponyms are synonymous with the term “oxyphil cell”.