

The Nephrology chapters

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On September 18th 2016, our dear colleague and friend Prof. dr. A.B. Johan Groeneveld passed away after a long lasting and devastating illness. He loved life and fought his disease up to the end.

Research in intensive care medicine was Johan's greatest passion: he published hundreds of articles. He was driven by the profound wish to understand the pathophysiological mechanisms of circulatory, respiratory and renal failure during critical illness. Many PhD students wrote their thesis under his guidance.

His fervour for writing and editing scientific papers was not only visible in his international publications. As editor-in-chief of the Netherlands Journal of Critical Care, Johan made a tremendous effort to improve the standard of the journal, installing an international advisory board, registering the journal with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and launching an online submission and reviewing system. The dedication with which he managed to resuscitate the journal was impressive. Time after time he invited national and international experts to publish their research in his journal.

For several years, Johan chaired the congress committee of the Netherlands Association for Intensive Care (NVIC). He always had plenty ideas to make the congress more attractive and with his great international network he was able to welcome some of the finest international speakers to the NVIC congresses.

Johan was also an active member of both the nephrology committee of the NVIC and the section acute kidney injury of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM).

He was always looking for new research topics, mainly in the field of pathophysiology. Johan participated in writing guidelines for the treatment of patients with acute kidney injury, he was editor of several books and one of the editors of our recently published book *Acute Nephrology for the Critical Care Physician*.

Medical education was also one of Johan's passions. He loved to give tutorials, either for medical students, physicians and intensivists in training, the Fundamental Critical Care Support or the postgraduate course nephrology of the ESICM. Johan was not only a hard worker, he also had a great sense of humour. Sitting next to him at a dinner table was always great fun. Another talent of Johan was his musicality: he played the piano like a professional. A few years ago, he came to my home and we played Rachmaninov's second suite for two piano's, which was a great pleasure for both of us.

The annual congress of the ESICM was one of Johan's favourites. He joined the faculty from his early years in intensive care medicine, initially in the footsteps of his teacher Bert Thijs, but very soon on his own merits. Johan was a fabulous speaker, always pimping his lectures with little jokes. He was extraordinary witty, sharp in voice and tongue and extremely motivated to win the debate. He really enjoyed being part of the European community of intensive care doctors. Last year, when he received the honorary membership, he told his younger colleagues to dedicate their efforts to the society, as he said 'because it is such a great fun'. It was sad to attend this meeting for the first time without Johan. However, the best way to remember him is to continue his scientific work, both for the NVIC and the ESICM.