Jerzy George Hildebrand (1936–2013)

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Jerzy George Hildebrand, a former President of the European Neurological Society and renowned neurooncologist, died on 11 February 2013 in Brussels. He was 77. Born in Ukraine, which was part of Poland at that time, he spent his childhood in Siberia where he had been deported with his mother by the Soviets in 1940 at the time of the Germano-Soviet pact. By deporting them to Siberia a few months before the attack of the Soviet Union by the Nazis, the Soviets saved their lives. His father was among the many Polish officers slaughtered by the Soviets in Katyn. After the war his mother was able to flee Siberia, then to Poland with him, finally reaching Belgium some time later. In a recent book dedicated to his

mother Wanda, Hildebrand details his hectic life and peregrination until he finally entered a secondary school in Belgium where he learned French. He then started his medical studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and specialized in Neurology. He worked on neuromuscular disorders first gaining clinical experience and doing research. Then he became Chief of Neurology at the University Hospital Erasme in Brussels. He subsequently became interested in Neurooncology and contributed several important papers and books to the field.

He was actively involved in the teaching and scientific programmes of the ENS, especially in the organization of courses and selection of scientific papers. He was elected President of the ENS for the year 1999. He was also a reliable advisor in the administration of the society. After he retired from Chef de Service he worked on a voluntary basis at the Institut Bordet and at la Salpêtrière in Paris, for which he received the Légion d'honneur. Jerzy George Hildebrand was also a connoisseur in art, especially in paintings, a hobby that he shared with his wife Michèle. He had a good sense of humour and was extremely generous and helpful to people and patients. We have lost a great friend and a genuine European who had been through the vicissitudes that our continent endured during the twentieth century. I had the privilege to be counted among his friends. We will miss him.

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