OBITUARY

Herman van Engeland (1943–2016)

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Published online: 23 July 2016
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Prof. Herman van Engeland, MD, former Director of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Medical Centre Utrecht/The Netherlands until April 18, 2008, passed away on May 12, 2016. European and International Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has lost with his death one of their most renowned representatives and many colleagues mourn a good friend.

Herman van Engeland was born on May 1st, 1943, in Winterswijk/The Netherlands where he attended the local secondary school and met his future wife Herma. After graduating from high school and military service, he studied medicine in Utrecht and passed his state examination in 1969. After completion of his studies, he turned to psychiatry and later to child and adolescent psychiatry.

He was a student of Lucas N. J. Kamp and became his successor to the chair of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Utrecht in 1984. He wrote a groundbreaking doctoral thesis on neurophysiological studies in autism for which he was awarded with the very prestigious Ramaer prize of the Dutch Society for Psychiatry. Since then he pursued extensive clinical and scientific activities and established interdisciplinary research groups that quickly found their place in top international research.

He was an experienced and sensitive clinician and a far-sighted researcher who recognized innovative trends in developmental science at an early stage and translated them into concrete research projects. Among them are his

contributions to autism research, developmental psychopathology, etiology and therapy of eating disorders, and early developmental disorders, including psychotic states.

In addition, he was a very talented manager and organizer with a keen eye and strategic insight to foster his junior colleagues and promote their careers. Some of his students took over leading positions in The Netherlands or Europe, eleven of his 62 doctoral candidates became professors.

But Herman van Engeland also was involved continuously and with great success in scientific organizations. From 1991 to 1995, he was President of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP) and from 1994 to 2004, he was Vice-President of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP).

As President of the European Society he hosted the Xth ESCAP congress in Utrecht in 1995, an event of which all participants have the best memories, not only because of the scientific niveau, but also because of the social framework.

He also took part in several European Research Seminars in Heidelberg and Italy as speaker and mentor. His activities in European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry also included an active role in the foundation of the European Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ECAP) that he launched together with Philip Graham and Helmut Remschmidt during the VIIIth ESCAP congress in Varna/Bulgaria in 1987.

Finally, it is appropriate to stress his co-editorship of the volume “European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry”, published by Springer in 1999, which was the first to systematically describe the situation of the European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in 31 countries.

Among the numerous awards that were bestowed on Herman van Engeland, only his appointment as Officer of

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the Order of Oranje-Nassau shall be mentioned, an honorary title that was awarded to him by her majesty Queen Beatrix on the occasion of his retirement in 2008.

For German child and adolescent psychiatry (he was Honorary Member of the German society), Herman van Engeland was a stroke of luck in many respects: with regard to scientific exchange and cooperation, as frequent and welcome guest at congresses, scientific symposia and training events and as a colleague and friend.

His death leaves a large gap. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his wife Herma, his two children and three grandchildren and we mourn a straightforward personality, a passionate scientist and an endearing person whom we will remember with honor and gratitude.

Helmut Remschmidt, Marburg

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