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OBITUARY

ALBERT B. SABIN
(1906-1993)

Professor Albert B. Sabin, both a pioneer and one of the most renowned scientists in the field of virology and epidemiology and control of viral diseases, passed away at 86 years of age on wednesday, March 3, 1993.

Since 1990 he had been a member of the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Epidemiology.

Although his research contributed to the understanding of the natural history and epidemiology of several viral infections as well as the pathogenesis of related diseases, the name of Albert B. Sabin will be linked forever to the oral poliovirus vaccine. Thanks to his vaccine the "eradication of paralytic poliomyelitis caused by poliovirus has probably already been achieved in many parts of the world, just as indigenous smallpox was eradicated from many parts of the world long before global eradication was achieved". With this sentence Albert B. Sabin had opened the introduction of his paper: "Perspectives on Rapid Elimination and Ultimate Global Eradication of Paralytic Poliomyelitis caused by Poliovirus", published in this Journal (Sabin A.B., 1991, Eur. J. Epidemiol. 7: 1-22); he felt that this paper was his "last will and testament on this subject", as stated in a letter sent on September 27, 1990 to the late Prof. A. Sanna, at that time Editor-in-Chief of this Journal.

After retirement at age 80 in 1986, Dr Sabin continued his scientific activity in Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and in the United States with as much passion and enthusiasm as always.

With the death of Albert B. Sabin, the world has lost one of its most illustrious scientists, an individual who devoted his career to relieving other people's pain.