
In Memoriam: Antoon K.P.C. Amery 1933–1994

Antoon Amery, MD, PhD, died on November 2, 1994 in Leuven, Belgium. Dr. Amery was born in 1933. After his medical studies and specialization in internal medicine at the Catholic University of Leuven, he began his research career at the Hypertension Division of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he was mainly interested in hemodynamics and exercise. After his return to Belgium he obtained a PhD at the University of Leuven and became Chief of the newly formed Hypertension Unit, devoted to both research and patient care. Gradually the fields of interest of the unit widened from hemodynamics and exercise to include a.o. clinical pharmacology, epidemiology, and biochemical research. Dr. Amery continued to coordinate and inspire his team of collaborators and took particular care to maintain an integrated approach to hypertension research. He also showed a great interest in Africa and spent several months at the University of Kinshasa, Zaire, after which he continued his active and moral support for his many African friends.

In the early 1970s Dr. Amery became interested in hypertension in the elderly. He established the European Working Party on High Blood Pressure in the Elderly (EWPHE) and organized the first randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled outcome study in patients over 60. This study showed that antihypertensive treatment was also beneficial in this age group. After completion of the EWPHE study, he found the courage to organize a second trial (SYST-EUR), this time in elderly patients with isolated systolic hypertension. Unfortunately Dr. Amery passed away at the age of only 61, before the conclusion of the SYST-EUR study.

Dr. Amery's contributions to clinical and experimental hypertension were widely recognized. He was the recipient of several national and international awards, and was appointed as honorary member, fellow, and professor of several societies, colleges, and universities. He acted as a member of the editorial or advisory boards of about 15 journals and served in numerous national and international organizations, in-



cluding the European and International Society of Hypertension and the World Hypertension League, in which he served as president.

Dr. Amery will be remembered by those who had the pleasure of working with him as a man who had a fine critical mind. He will also be remembered for the research work conducted at his own unit and for the material it published. He had a particularly strong character, which helped him to realize his ideas and ideals. When his health was gradually undermined by a chronic disease, people around him were impressed by his courage and never ceasing hope for recovery.

Apart from his career as a clinician, researcher, and teacher at the university, Antoon Amery was happy to be with his family, including his wife and four children. He loved nature and truly enjoyed life. His untimely death brings a great loss to his family and to all those who had the privilege to be close to him.

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