

## IN MEMORIAM



# In memoriam: Johan Groeneveld

Armand Girbes<sup>1\*</sup>  and Jozef Kesecioglu<sup>2</sup>

© 2016 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg and ESICM



On September 18, 2016, our society lost one of our most valued members and researchers, Professor Arie Bastiaan Johan Groeneveld at the age of 60 years, after a long, devastating disease.

A devoted ESICM member, PACT contributor, faculty member, and colleague to many over the years, Johan Groeneveld was granted honorary membership in 2015 after a long and illustrious career in intensive care medicine. Described by colleagues as a trendsetter in intensive care medicine in the Netherlands, he was also very active and respected internationally.

Graduating from the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam with a degree in medicine in 1979, Johan specialized in internal medicine at the hospital of the same university and he worked as a research fellow critical care medicine at the Medical School of Chicago, under the supervision of Professor Max H. Weil. The late Professor Bert Thijs, one of the founders of ESICM, was his mentor and promoter in his Ph.D. thesis entitled “Peripheral vascular function in septic shock. A clinical and experimental study” which he completed in 1988. This pivotal collaboration marked the beginning of a longstanding collaborative relationship between the two.

Johan Groeneveld was a passionate researcher with an enormous enthusiasm for physiology and pathophysiology, driven by pure curiosity. His knowledge on the broad field of intensive care was unmatched and he was always willing to share his knowledge and ideas with others. It is not surprising then that he collaborated with so many investigators, colleagues, and students, leading to a huge number of publications, chapters in books, and Ph.D. theses.

He was a highly respected and sought-after speaker not only at national and international conferences but also at small-scale educational sessions for young students, physicians, and registrars for intensive care. His scientific arguments were peppered with humor during pro-con debates, which was always a highly appreciated extra for those in attendance.

Johan acquired several prominent titles and awards throughout his career, including that of a top reviewer and editor of several journals, including our own journal *Intensive Care Medicine*. His drive to document his ideas, data, and understanding of physiology, pathophysiology, and intensive care medicine was enormous, and it was in fact one of his major pleasures of his life. This became a fortiori visible when he was confronted with a disease that was not curable. Despite his illness, he demonstrated an enormous willpower and strength to continue his work, helping others in their research and being a mentor for many young investigators and colleagues.

\*Correspondence: a.girbes@planet.nl

<sup>1</sup> Department of Intensive Care 7D16, VU University Medical Center, P.O. Box 7057, 1007 MB Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Full author information is available at the end of the article

Above all, to those who knew him personally, he was an exceptionally kind, supportive, and truly humane person. He has left an indelible mark on ESICM and intensive care medicine as a whole and will be truly missed.

We wish all his loved ones the strength they need.

**Author details**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Intensive Care 7D16, VU University Medical Center, P.O. Box 7057, 1007 MB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. <sup>2</sup> Department of Intensive Care Medicine, University Medical Center, University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Received: 22 September 2016 Accepted: 23 September 2016

Published online: 10 October 2016