

August, 2014

In memoriam Prof. Arthur de Schepper

Dear ESSR members,



During the Annual meeting in Riga it became apparent that not all ESSR members were aware that an old friend had passed away. Last year on October 4 **Arthur de Schepper** passed away after a courageous battle since November 2011 against colon cancer.

Until the last moments he continued to work, enjoy and appreciate life and his family and friends. Most ESSR members remember him as a friend with a warm personality. Arthur supported ESSR and musculoskeletal radiology as a lecturer on many occasions, by encouraging young radiologists, especially from his department in Antwerp to become active within ESSR, and of course by his papers and well-known textbook on soft tissue tumors. In 2006 Arthur was awarded honorary membership of our Society. Before these musculoskeletal activities and his chairmanship of the department of Radiology in Antwerp since its origin in 1980, he was active as an innovator in angiography in various hospitals. Arthur retired in 2003.

Personally I was privileged to be one of many friends he had in the radiological community. For many years I was able to enjoy his friendship mainly during meetings. It was always a special moment to discuss radiology, literature, art, food, Belgian beers, or any topic with him. At one of the ESSR meetings he told me he was going to retire. I asked him to spend some years in Leiden working on musculoskeletal tumors. He immediately accepted and the colleagues within and outside Radiology working on this topic learned quickly to accept him as an authority on the subject. His knowledge and sense of humor were greatly appreciated by all. The residents loved him. He remained active in many other capacities, including as a consultant for the Belgian Soft Tissue Neoplasm Registry, which he created, and as a proliferative author producing even more publications including a new edition of his book on soft tissue tumors. In addition to all these professional activities Arthur found time to write and publish his powerful poems. His family was the center of his life. He is survived by his wife Anya, 12 children and 21 grandchildren.

His last poem written in Dutch and translated by Paul Parizel reads;

*To whom it may concern
bury me cautiously
with a bunch of lavender
and pen and paper
one never knows
my soul might write*

*the timeless poem
I never could alive*

*forget pomp and circumstance
sprinkle humor in my grave
and a piece of the rainbow
one never knows
my eye might see
a spray of colors
I never could alive*

*don't bury me loud
put grains of silence in my grave
and an ivory music box
one never knows
there is no heavenly music
but sounds I will hear
I hardly could alive*

*leave home your funeral wreaths
your elegies and lament
as for an honorable man
put cuddles and caresses in my grave
one never knows
our love survives*

We will dearly miss his friendship and guidance.
Hans Bloem