

On behalf of the members of ISPRM in The Netherlands, I have the sad duty to announce that Dr. André Van Gestel from The Netherlands, Honor Role Member of ISPRM, died on January 6, 2015, at the age of 84.

Dr. Van Gestel specialized in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and became a member of the Netherlands Society of PM&R in 1963.

During his whole professional career he played an important role in the development of the practice of PM&R in the Netherlands, especially in the southern part of our country.

Already in 1964, a year after joining our National Society, he became a member of its Board of Governors, which he remained until 1969, and from 1971 until 1976 he was President of the Society.

During the 5th Congress of the International Federation of PM&R in 1968 in Montreal, he was elected as Secretary of the Board of Governors and he remained in that position until 1980. Thereafter, from 1980 to 1992, he served as Deputy Secretary and spokesman for the Netherlands National Society.

During that time he was actively involved in the creation of the White Book on Education and Training in PM&R, which was produced by the Committee on Education and Training of the Federation, and finished in 1992.

In addition to these activities at the global level, he was also involved in the work of the European Federation of PM&R. He was from 1984 till 1991 Vice-President of this federation of National Societies, and its President from 1991 till 1994.

In 1990 the European Federation published, in co-operation with the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists, a White Book on "The role of physical and rehabilitation medicine in wholecare and its consequences concerning education and training of students and medical specialists", comparable with the White Book published by the International Federation.

This white book is still the basis of education and training in P&RM all over Europe.

André Van Gestel died after a short illness, peacefully, at home, in the midst of his family.

We will remember him as an excellent friend and colleague, who did a great deal to promote the development of our specialism, in the Netherlands and internationally.

To be awarded in 1999, the year of the merger of the International Federation and IRMA, the Honor Role Membership of ISPRM as well as the position of Member of Honor of the Netherlands Society of P&RM, was the recognition which he richly deserved.

On behalf of the members of ISPRM in The Netherlands,

William Peek