



In memoriam

Jean-Claude Yernault

Professor Jean-Claude Yernault from Brussels in Belgium sadly died on September 21st 2004, at only 61 years of age. He had a profound impact upon the development of respiratory medicine in Europe. In addition to his major work as a clinician and scientist, he was very active in the creation of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) by the merging of *Societas Europaea Physiologiae Clinicae Respiratoriae* (SEPCR) and *Societas Europaea Pneumologica* (SEP) in 1990. He studied medicine, gained his medical degree and PhD, and eventually became a Professor of Respiratory medicine at the Free University in Brussels.

He was the first President of the ERS and organised the first Annual Congress in Brussels in 1991. He was, together with Eric Berglund, the first Chief Editor of the *European Respiratory Journal*, which was created by merging the *European Journal of Respiratory Medicine* with *Bulletin Européen de Physiopathologie Respiratoire*. He also was the first editor of *European Respiratory Review*, and it was his idea to launch the *European Respiratory Topic* (ERT) as a tool for education and the communication of recent developments in respiratory medicine. The ERT was launched by the European School of Respiratory Medicine (ESRM), which was borne from his idea and of which he was the first chair from 1992 until 1998.

Jean-Claude Yernault initiated the ESRM in 1992 and developed it over some years until 1998. I had the pleasure of being a member of the ESRM 1994–1997, as a representative of the Paediatric Assembly. I learned to know Jean-Claude as a kind, very clever and reflective man, and, through his leadership, the ESRM had a rich development. In addition to organising Postgraduate courses at the ERS Annual Congress, he developed the School as a tool for establishing links with national thoracic societies.

He supported seminars and Postgraduate courses at national meetings in several different countries with teachers from the ERS. Through his leadership, ESRM cooperated with the European Board of Respiratory Medicine. Teaching devices, such as slide sets of different topics, were also developed.

Thus, many of the activities of the present ERS School are based upon the initiatives taken by Jean-Claude Yernault.

Due to his great efforts for education within respiratory medicine and to celebrate his memory, the Executive Committee of the ERS has decided to initiate an honorary Jean-Claude Yernault lecture at the Annual Congress, which will alternate every third year with the present Sadoul and Courmand lectures. The topic of the honorary Jean-Claude Yernault lecture shall be related to education within respiratory medicine and the ERS School will select the speaker. The first Jean-Claude Yernault lecture will take place at the Annual Congress in 2006.

We will remember Jean-Claude Yernault for his personality, for his work as a teacher and scientist, and for his great work and efforts for ERS and ERS School.

Kai-Håkon Carlsen
Chair ERS School



Professor Jean-Claude Yernault