

## Obituary

### J. A. CAP 1924–1996

Dr Jozef Arthur CAP, 72, died in Belgium on 22 April 1996. He was born in Nieuwkerken, a village near the town of St Niklaas, Belgium.

After obtaining his MD and DPH degrees from the State University of Ghent in 1948, and his DTM from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp in 1949, he left with his wife to the then Belgian Congo, where he became a public health officer in the Kwango District, a highly prevalent area for leprosy. In 1952, he was made in charge of leprosy control in the Equator Province, and from 1955 to 1960, he was Director of the National Leprosy Control Programme in the Belgian Congo. From 1960 to 1971 he was associated with WHO. He worked successively in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand; then, as leader of the well-known Leprosy Assessment Team, he carried out major epidemiological surveys in Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Colombia and Argentina; in 1967–1971 he was senior WHO leprosy advisor in India. In 1971, he became Director of the Leprosy Control Department at ALERT, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and from 1978 to 1986 while being at the Institut de Léprologie Appliquée in Dakar, he served as technical adviser to the Minister of Public Health of Senegal.

Dr Cap was the author of a considerable number of reports and state of the art presentations regarding the diagnosis of leprosy, control issues and epidemiological studies. He collaborated with a number of nongovernmental organizations, where he was most appreciated for his large experience of leprosy acquired over forty years in various continents. From 1982 to 1988, he was chairman of the Medical Commission of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP). He was also a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences.

J. A. Cap was fine clinician. He was approaching the patient with great respect and human feelings. He was very able at motivating collaborators in most diverse contexts. It was an enlightening experience to discuss control issues with him, since his ideas were always marked by a great deal of common sense.

After his retirement, Dr Cap settled with his wife Julie in his native village. He remained interested in what was happening in the field of leprosy to which he had devoted his entire career.

He will be remembered as a man of wisdom by his friends and collaborators.

M. F. LECHAT & S. PATTYN