

Obituary

Baron Professor Jules François

In paying tribute to a unique personality in the field of ophthalmology it is of the greatest importance to emphasise his many personal attributes. Born in 1907 in Gingelom in Belgium, Jules François studied medicine at the University of Louvain and in Paris. In 1942 he became associate professor and in 1948 was appointed professor of ophthalmology at the University of Ghent. Since that time he has been awarded numerous international medals, has received honours from countries all over the world, and has made a remarkable number of contributions to the literature, his interests embracing ophthalmic medicine, surgery, genetics, pathology, and physiology. These span a period of over 50 years, from his early papers in 1931 to his most recent publications in 1984.

Throughout his life as an ophthalmologist Jules François has taken advantage of his agile mind to extend the borders of ophthalmic knowledge, and to take with him to these border areas many younger colleagues who have benefited from his teaching and from his helpful advice in forming their careers.

He was fluent in several European languages, and never failed to learn some of the phrases of the native tongue of any country he visited, so that he could feel he was at one with his hosts, and could show his appreciation of their invitations in the manner they most easily understood. His generous hospitality to his guests in Belgium, and in particular at his lovely home in Ghent, will be remembered by many hundreds of his colleagues visiting there with their societies, with the International Council, or on personal occasions. At any meeting Jules would greet warmly every-

one whom he knew, and there were very few who were strangers to him, and those not for long.

It is well known that the record of his activities is formidable, and to say this is enough without attempting to dwell upon more than a few of his achievements. Among those that he must have cherished were his presidency of the International Council of Ophthalmology from 1974 to 1982, and his election in 1982 to honorary life presidency of the council. He was awarded the Gonin medal in 1966, a singular honour 'presented periodically to the ophthalmologist who has contributed most lavishly to the advancement of ophthalmology.'

He was the first recipient of the Duke-Elder international medal in 1982, a medal presented jointly by the founder of the Duke-Elder Fund (Lady Duke-Elder) and the International Council of Ophthalmology in honour of the memory of Sir Stewart Duke-Elder. This Jules must have cherished in an especially personal way, as he and Stewart and Phyllis Duke-Elder held a strong mutual affection for one another. He was without doubt happy to have succeeded such a close friend as Sir Stewart as honorary life president of the International Council.

He was honoured with the personal title of Baron on 14 November 1983. This was a graceful acknowledgement of the contribution he had made to ophthalmology in Belgium.

Already during his lifetime there have been tributes to Jules François in the form of lectureships and the establishment of the foundations in his name. In his honour a Jules François gold medal has now been created to reward ophthalmological works of high scientific level.

The death of Jules François on 13 August 1984 has deprived the world of ophthalmology of an outstanding figure. When writing to his colleagues his form of address was always 'Dear Friend', and it is to one such dear friend that every ophthalmologist pays tribute.

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Notes

Glaucoma group

TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

The Glaucoma Group Travel Fellowship, sponsored by Merck Sharp and Dohme, will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1985. The award will be equivalent to £1500 sterling. The purpose of the award is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.

RESEARCH GRANT

The Glaucoma Group Research Grant, sponsored by the International Glaucoma Association, will be available for a clinically orientated research project related to glaucoma for 1985. The award will be equivalent to £2500 sterling. The Grant may be used towards salary or project expenses or for buying equipment.

Both these awards are available to medical graduates and non-medical scientists resident in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland. They may be held concurrently with other awards. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae with information on their research project and details for

proposed visit (preferably with confirmation from the centre/s visited) to: Dr S Nagasubramanian, Glaucoma Group Secretary, Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn, London WC1V 7AN. The closing date for applications for these awards is 14 June 1985. The successful candidate will be informed by August 1985.

Facial surgery

The Interspecialty Facial Surgery Congress for Aesthetic, Cancer, and Reconstructive Surgery will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, on 24-27 April 1985. Details from Mr James F Pawlak, c/o Pierre Guibor, MD, 630 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, USA.

Anne Allerton Fund

A charity has been set up called the Anne Allerton Fund. The income from the fund is to be used in any sphere of ophthalmic research. Applications for grants should be sent before 1 May 1985 c/o The Anne Allerton Fund (reference 06), 100 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BN. Grants will be considered between £3000 and £10000 per annum. Applicants should submit full details of their projects and indicate where the monies are required.



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