

In Memoriam

Professor De Weck

The speciality of allergology recently suffered the loss of Professor Alain de Weck. For almost 30 years, Professor de Weck was the Director of the Institute of Clinical Immunology and Allergy at the University of Bern, Switzerland, where he started his research in immunopathology and the dynamics of hypersensitivity in drug allergy (penicillin), before moving on to study the immunological mechanisms of allergic reactions at the cellular level. His work was reflected in major studies that generated more than 500 articles, as well as in several books and publications. The research led by Professor de Weck played a key role in promoting allergology throughout the world. Professor de Weck was also an energetic promoter of allergology as an academic discipline.

Professor de Weck devoted part of his time to international societies such as the International Union of Immunology Societies (IUIS) and the International Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (IAACI), both of which he served as President. It was in the IAACI, of which I was also President, where we began a friendship that lasted almost 20 years. He was also a key member and president of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum (CIA), which benefited greatly from his efforts. His dedication to his work considerably increased the international prestige of the Institute of Clinical Immunology and Allergy in Bern.

My recognition of Professor de Weck and his work led me to ask my university (University of Navarre) to appoint him as Professor Extraordinarius of Allergology and Clinical Immunology. His acceptance was a great honor that allowed us to further enjoy his company and friendship. Since his



retirement in 1993 and until 4 years ago, he devoted himself to research, together with my colleague Professor Sanz, with whom he published more than 20 articles. His role as Associate Editor at the Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology was an enormous help to me.

Finally, I would like to highlight his generous and positive idea of combining his library of allergology and clinical immunology with mine to create a legacy that is now available in the Library of the School of Medicine of the University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain.

His friendly personality and determination, together with the many happy hours shared spent with his wife Christine (deceased) and later with his second wife Brigitte, will remain in our memory.

Prof. Dr. H.C. Albert Karl Oehling