

## Curious by Nature

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Arie Bastiaan Johan Groeneveld, a leading member of the Intensive Care community, died on September 18th, aged just 60, after a long fight with illness.

AB Johan Groeneveld was born in Amsterdam in 1955. He studied medicine at the Vrije Universiteit

of Amsterdam, graduating in 1979. He continued his training in internal medicine at the same university becoming an internist there in 1984. In 1988, he completed his PhD thesis on "Peripheral vascular function in septic shock. A clinical and experimental study". In 1995, Johan received certification as an intensivist and in 2004 became Professor of Intensive Care Medicine at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. In 2011, he moved to Rotterdam to become Head of Research at the Department of Intensive Care in the Erasmus Medical Center.

Johan was curious by nature and this developed into an early and keen interest in medical research, particularly related to exploring and trying to understand the physiology and pathophysiology of health and disease in critically ill patients. In 1983 already, during his post-graduate training, he spent a year in Chicago as a research fellow under the supervision of the late Prof Max Harry Weil (following in the steps of his mentor, Lambert Thijs, another colleague and friend who is sadly missed). Johan's first article was already published in 1979 and subsequently his high quality experimental and clinical research led to a total of more than 500 original publications, book chapters and editorials, his main topics of research interest being sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome and shock. His experience, knowledge and commitment made him an excellent and reliable reviewer for many journals, including Intensive Care Medicine, Shock and Critical Care. He was Editor-in-Chief of the Netherlands Journal of Critical Care for many years.

Johan was also much in demand as a speaker at national and international meetings. A keen advocate of ongoing training and education, Johan was always willing to share his impressive depth of knowledge with others and was equally enthusiastic whether in front of a large audience at a major international meeting or a small group of students in his home hospital. Although very serious about his research, Johan had a good sense of humour and often punctuated his talks with witty comments, to the enjoyment of his listeners.

Not afraid to state his opinion, negative or positive, he always did so with courtesy and kindness, and many have benefitted from his careful, pertinent insight. In addition to participating as a speaker, Johan was also involved in the organization of several meetings. He was a valued Scientific Advisor for the International Symposium on Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine for many years and his dedication to the role and useful thoughts and guidance, even when he was already ill, were always much appreciated. We have certainly missed his familiar face around the Advisors' table this year.

The high respect held for Johan by his European peers was reflected just last year, when he was presented with Honorary Membership of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine in recognition of his "outstanding contribution to the specialty of intensive care medicine".

Intensive care medicine in the Netherlands, Europe and worldwide has lost an inspired researcher, intensivist, speaker and teacher. I have lost a valued friend and colleague.