

## The Rotterdam years

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Johan Groeneveld came in 2011 to the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam. Not an easy step for someone who started his medical training at the VU University in Amsterdam and never left till he moved to the one and only rival of Amsterdam: Rotterdam. It wasn't easy to lure Johan to Rotterdam, it took years. Since 2003 Johan participated in the yearly Winter Workshop Intensive Care where I had the chance to be up close and personal with him. Johan was one of the very first Intensive Care researchers in the Netherlands and already at that time he had an impressive list of publications. In addition, Johan was a great presenter with a dry wit and an impressive memory for data. He helped to make the Winter Workshop a success and only had to skip the 11th and final edition of this event in 2014. For years Johan used his characteristic blue slides and when he finally switched to computer presentations a large number of his slides were just copies of his old projector slides: it was all about content! Since the 2008 edition of the Winter Workshop I started conversations with Johan about a possible move to Rotterdam. In the old Hotel du Parc in Villars Switzerland he didn't seem very eager for a change. Nevertheless, he agreed to follow up some time later and so for three years we talked during the Winter Workshop and followed up, usually at my place during the summer. In the

summer of 2010 he agreed to change to Rotterdam and help us expand our experimental and clinical research program. He finally started in 2011 as intensivist and chair of research. To our surprise, after being at the VU for almost 30 years (he started his medical training at the VU University in 1972), Johan blended in rapidly. At the time he arrived in Rotterdam his publication list was extensive and Johan rapidly organized the group of researchers and clinicians to start producing "stukjes" as Johan used to call a scientific publication. Sadly, he was confronted already early after starting in Rotterdam with a significant healthcare problem. However, his energy and passion for research was bigger than major surgery and the frequent medical interventions. It was not uncommon to receive an email from Johan out of his hospital bed or see him walk into his office along an infusion pole. Loyal as he was, he came to the department two weeks before he passed away and finalized the paperwork for his final PhD student from his bed at home a week later. With more than 45 peer reviewed publications, and 5 PhD students during his time in Rotterdam troubled by his progressing disease, his enthusiasm and joy in research and writing "stukjes" just like his joy in lecturing and skiing will never be forgotten.

