

## Obituary

FRANK M. SCHABEL, Jr

Director, Chemotherapy Research, Southern Research Institute,  
Birmingham, AL, U.S.A.

FRANK Schabel, Jr died suddenly and unexpectedly at the 13th International Cancer Congress in Vienna, Austria on 30 August 1983. In him the community of scientists and especially of cancer researchers has lost one of its most brilliant and creative contributors. He was known all over the world for his fundamental discoveries in experimental cancer chemotherapy, a field he developed in association with H. E. Skipper. The list of his professional positions, his membership in scientific societies and the number and quality of his publications are impressive and reflect his extraordinary scientific competence, his intellectual integrity and his talent to clarify and solve the intricate problems of drug action in cancer.

Others will relate his many accomplishments in more detail. Here, at the *European Journal of Cancer & Clinical Oncology*, we have our own reasons to mourn his loss: he was a dear friend, not only of the editor of the journal, but also of all members of EORTC and of the scientific community in this part of Europe. As a referee he was unexcelled, very perceptive, severe yet always courteous and constructive. One of the great pleasures enjoyed by this editor was to receive his reports written in elegant and precise prose, on manuscripts submitted to his judgement. He helped us build up this journal.

A more personal association with Frank took place when he agreed to give a series of lectures at Institut Jules Bordet in 1981. They were as enjoyable as they were instructive.

We all liked Frank Schabel and respected him. He can never be replaced. Typical of the greatness and the modesty of the man is his final recommendation in a letter detailing his wishes for what should be done at the time of his death: "It is my hope, perhaps the last wish of a pathologic egotist, that I will be remembered for my deeds and that they will provide me with a better remembrance than I would ever be able to purchase".

We are indebted to his two sons, Frank M. Schabel III and Stephen I. Schabel, both physicians, for communicating to us this last expression of a magnanimous and noble man.

Our thoughts and solicitude are also going to Mrs. Gwen Schabel, the wife and inseparable companion of Frank. She is also our friend and we stand by her, in her sorrow.

H.J.T.