

Obituary

JEAN-CLAUDE HEUSON

DR. JEAN-CLAUDE HEUSON, Professor of Medical Oncology and Chief of the Breast Cancer Unit at Institut Jules Bordet, Brussels, died on 8 February 1986. He was 58 years old.

He graduated in medicine from Brussels University in 1953. After two years as Resident in the Department of Medicine at the Memorial Hospital in New York, he was appointed assistant in medicine and research fellow at the Institut Jules Bordet, Cancer Center of the University of Brussels.

His main interest was the study of breast cancer at the clinical and biochemical levels. He contributed importantly to develop his studies which finally led to the creation of a laboratory and department of breast cancer which has become internationally known.

Professor Tagnon, retired Chief of Medicine who appointed him in 1955, says:

Professor Heuson's career is remarkable because it is entirely based on the close association of the laboratory and clinical approach to the experimental problems. His research work was original and rigorous. Jean-Claude Heuson was a perseverant man and pursued his research work with relentless vigor. He was a real University man, with high standards and he attracted a number of young investigators to his department. He created a permanent group of very productive workers, many of whom went to develop their talent in other hospitals, in Belgium and abroad. Dr. Heuson was the stimulus behind all this activity. Breast oncology is one of the strong departments of the Service of Medicine at Institut

Bordet and this is due to his initiative and perseverance with his associates, and particularly Dr. Guy Leclercq, the biochemist, and Dr. Robert Paridaens, the clinician. No such strongly constituted breast cancer clinic exists in Belgium. It became a center of reference for breast cancer research. It kept in close touch with similar units in other countries, such as the Unit at Guy's Hospital in London and the units at the National Cancer Institute and the U.S. cooperative groups and centers.

Between 1961 and 1986, Dr. Heuson's unit published over 100 important articles on all aspects of the physiology and the treatment of breast cancer. His career represents an outstanding achievement in cancer research. It is hoped this will be continued and extended as a durable manifestation of an exceptional effort.

Jean-Claude Heuson was more than just a scientist. He was also a man of culture and a good friend whose loss we deplore. Everybody liked him. His death is that of a man who having achieved in his few years as much or more than many in their entire life, was still full of promise.

Professor Heuson served on the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Cancer & Clinical Oncology* with distinction and impartiality. He was also a most active member of the Breast Group of the EORTC to which he contributed importantly.

He enjoyed classical music and his best liked hobby was gliding which he practised in Provence with characteristic energy and skill. He is survived by his wife, Professor Janine Heuson and their two children.