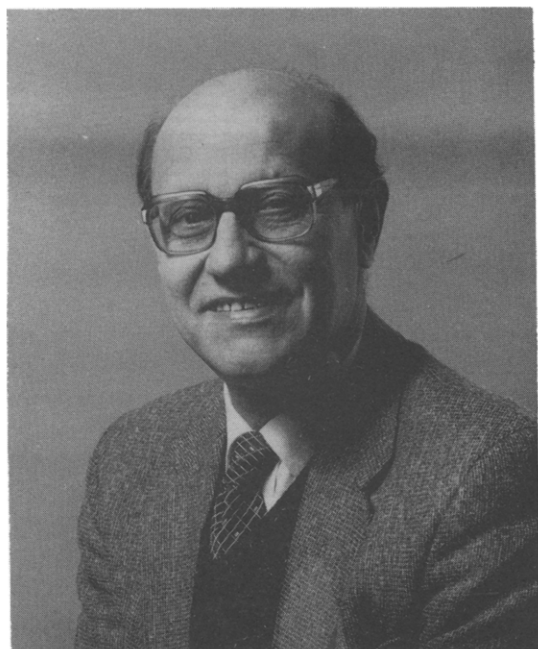


Obituary

LUKE VAN PUTTEN



ON THE 7th of December 1989 Luke van Putten passed away from a heart disease that had increasingly crippled him over recent years.

His contributions to cancer research began after he joined the staff of the very young Radiobiological Institute TNO in 1956. By then he had completed his medical studies and his training in internal medicine and had passed his Ph.D. thesis at Leyden University. The in-depth study of diseases and the developments of new ways of treatment held more attractions for him than clinical work as a physician. He soon started a variety of research projects which involved radiation carcinogenesis, experimental radiotherapy and experimental bone marrow transplantation.

In the early seventies Luke became interested in the newly emerging anti-cancer chemotherapy. He was a pioneer in the study of the combination therapy of tumors with radiation and chemothera-

peutic agents and a promotor of introducing chemotherapy in oncological practice in The Netherlands.

Following his return from a sabbatical year with Henry Kaplan and Bob Kallman in Stanford in 1965 he joined the Groupe Européenne de Chimiothérapie Anticancéreuse (GECA) that was to become the EORTC. Luke served the EORTC for more than 20 years, first as a Councillor and later as a member of its Administrative Board and as its Treasurer. In that capacity he assisted Henri Tagnon in initiating an essential source of funding for EORTC by way of the EORTC Foundation. These important administrative duties were only a minor part of his activities in the EORTC. He contributed to many of its subcommittees, most notably the Screening and Pharmacology Group, and the Protocol Review Committee.

For nearly 25 years Luke van Putten held the post of Associate Director of the Radiobiological Institute TNO, and helped to build its international reputation. Luke van Putten was a gifted teacher because of his exceptional memory and his enthusiasm in explaining his ideas. In 1970 he was appointed to the Chair of Applied Radiation Biology at Leyden University. His broad knowledge of radiation biology and radiation protection made him the member for Health Aspects on the National Committee that organized and directed the Public Debate on Nuclear Energy during 1981 and 1982. In recognition of his outstanding services to the country and society he was awarded the distinction of Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau.

Luke served on many committees and editorial boards, including the Editorial Board of this Journal. He will be remembered with friendship and gratitude by many of his students, collaborators and colleagues all over the world. He is survived by his wife Marijke and his daughter and four sons. We share with them our deep sorrow.

DIRK W. VAN BEKKUM