

## **Adriaan van Oosterom**

### **In Memory by Dr. Andrés R. Pérez Riera**

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It is with great sadness that we remember our colleague Adriaan van Oosterom, who died Friday afternoon, April 26, 2019 in Nijmegen, a Nederland the age of 77 with his family by his side.

After studying to become an electronic engineer Adriaan van Oosterom was employed by the Laboratory of Medical Physics at the University of Amsterdam where, from 1961 to 1965, he was engaged in the designing of electronic equipment for use in experimental cardiologic research.

From 1965 to 1971 he studied Experimental Physics at the University of Amsterdam where, in 1971, he received an honours degree in Physics (MSc).

Next, from 1971 to 1981, he worked at the Laboratory of Medical Physics (mentor: Prof. Dr. J. Strackee), as well as at the Department of Experimental Cardiology (Prof. Dr. D. Durrer), both in Amsterdam.

During this period various physical aspects of the genesis of the electrocardiogram were studied, which led to a PhD in Physics in 1978 at the University of Amsterdam.

In 1981 he was appointed Professor of Medical Physics at the University of Nijmegen. Here he set up a research group studying Bioelectricity. Besides subjects related to electrocardiography, other bioelectric phenomena were studied, such as those related to electroneurography, electromyography, electroencephalography, functional electrostimulation and electrical impedance tomography.

In September 2003 he was invited to join the Department of Cardiology of the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV), Lausanne; Switzerland, where he was subsequently appointed Professor of Experimental Cardiology. From his base at the Institute of Signal Processing of the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) he was involved in research on the electric activity of the heart, with special focus on atrial fibrillation.

After his retirement in September 2009 van Oosterom returned to the Netherlands, where he is currently involved in the completion of a number of the projects initiated in Lausanne.

With his passion and his intellect, Adriaan has left an indelible mark on the field of bioelectricity. He was greatly appreciated and admired by his colleagues all over the world. Young investigators will remember their first encounter with Adriaan, when he fired sharp questions at them after their presentation at a conference. During the break, Adriaan would seek them out and show his

keen interest in and appreciation for their ideas and conclusions. Adriaan could be very direct (even for a Dutchman), sometimes caught people unawares. But he was also very open, had a keen sense of fairness, and never hesitated to support his fellow scientists. His PhD students could drop into his office at almost any time; immediately, he would drop whatever he was doing and immerse them in scientific discussions. It is no surprise that his students have carried his tradition of rigor and scientific and personal integrity.

Adriaan also played a large role in the International Society of Electrophysiology; he was the President of the Society from 2009-11 and an International Council member for many years.

He was the chair of the 1995 edition of the ICE, which he hosted in his home town of Nijmegen, even though he was recovering from his first fight with the cancer that eventually overwhelmed him. He always pushed for improvement and for an active and engaged Council; he always led by example.

He will indeed be sadly missed.

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