

Dear Colleagues,

I have the honor of presenting to you the career of Prof Jean-Michel Crielaard, who was the head of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the University and of the University Hospital of Liège for 26 years.

He was born in 1953 in Maastricht in the Netherlands, which is the reason why he speaks dutch well, and he came to Liège a few years later.

He studied Physical Education and Medicine simultaneously at the University of Liège and graduated respectively in 1975 and 1980. Then, he graduated in Sports Medicine in 1981 and in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in 1985. At the same time, he did Physiotherapy studies and was graduated in 1983. Finally, he also graduated in Medical Expertise in 1988. The same year, he passed his PhD oral defense on the study of the alactic anaerobic metabolism.

He became a lecturer in Physical Education at the ULg in 1988 at 35 and so was the younger professor of the faculty.

As he had a gift for speaking and teaching, his lectures were very dynamic and appreciated. He took part in an active way in the life of the Department of Sports and Rehabilitation Sciences of the ULg. Appointed Professor in 1997 and ordinary professor in 2001, he rapidly became the Head of the Department. He developed courses in physical Education, physical therapy and physical medicine. It was a huge teaching load. In 1988, he created the assessment area and physical skills training. He became the head of the service of infantile psychomotricity CEREKI (from 1989) (3 to 6 years old child psychomotor), he proceeded to the reorganization and the financial recovery of that structure... This structure has many collaborations with fundamental schools and teachers.

In 1990, he became Professor of physical medicine and head of Department at the CHU without revalidation bed... This service was progressively developed (revalidation beds, ENMG, back school, sport...) to become what it is today, which involved mergers with the hospitals of Esneux in 1992 and NDB in 2002. At the CHU of Liège, he was invested for many years within the Medical Council of which he was Vice President, and within the Board of Directors.

He also founded, with Prof Henri Nielens (UCL), the Inter University certificate of sports medicine and physiotherapy, which he headed until his retirement.

His position enabled him to meet the highest Belgian personalities... Eventually, he will be decorated by King Albert II as Commander of the order of the Crown in 2002.

Author or co-author of over 200 publications, he was also the initiator and promoter of many doctoral theses in electrotherapy and electromyostimulation, isokinetic and isoinertial assessments, chronic pain such as fibromyalgia or low back pain, shoulder

rehabilitation, respiratory rehabilitation, treatments of tendinopathies and PRP use and neurological rehabilitation.

Due to his scientific experience, has was elected member of the Faculty Council for research for many years.

He was also involved in various scientific societies dealing with sport and physical medicine. He was:

- Vice-President of the Société Francophone de Médecine et des Sciences du Sport.
- President and Vice-President of the Royal Belgian Society of PRM (two 3-year terms for each) where he has been helped by Prof Foidart-Dessalle, who also retired one year ago. During his mandate he was particularly attentive to the young PRM trainees.

Even if he was not in any syndicate board, he always supported Patrick Linden in the decisional processes at the national level. He was a big supporter of our « coupole », which brings together the scientific society and the professional societies (Absym and GBS) with a common annual fee.

He was also a great defender of the idea to include the neurological rehabilitation which is in at the 3rd level into the 5 years of specialization of PRM. This should normally be accepted soon. Don't forget the case of osteoporosis, where he was one of the first to defend our position and to recognize our skills.

He was also involved in the project of merging physiotherapy courses thought at university and in high schools.

However, his national achievements were not limited to the professional sphere... Before he became the Professor everybody knows, he was also one of the best sprinter in Belgium. Indeed, remember his best performances 10.5 s in the 100 m and 21.6 s in the 200 m and 8 titles of champion of Belgium with the FC Liégeois. In 1978, Crielaard, Micha, Seykens, and Lahaye have improved the 4X100m national record which they ran in only 40'6". It is thanks to his aggressiveness that he conquered all these titles. He had anticipated his conversion to coaching in 1975, first at the RFC Liégeois before going to Verviers from 1981 to 1999. He became the Federal sprint coach in the French-speaking part of Belgium from 1980 to 1984 and also national coach of the Belgian team of 4x100m relay from 1982 to 1983.

Rigour, persistence and anticipation are the qualities of which we'll remember Prof Crielaard. He was also a persuasive team leader in sports as well as in medical field. Keep this in mind; he'll always be an example for us.