

O B I T U A R Y



On the 2nd of March 2004, Willem Erkelens, a longstanding member of the editorial board, died at the age of 62 years. Willem was professor of internal medicine at the University Medical Centre in Utrecht and one of the most prominent internists in the Netherlands. As a clinician, a scientist and a teacher, he contributed greatly to internal medicine and to the Netherlands Journal of Medicine.

His critical approach, his knowledge of internal medicine as well as his wit were among his strong personal traits.

Over the last 30 years Willem Erkelens published at least 20 papers in the Netherlands Journal of Medicine, most of which were original articles dealing with his favorite scientific topics, diabetes and lipid metabolism.

Among Professor Erkelens' most recent accomplishments, his initiative and effort to rephrase the physicians' oath should be mentioned. The new oath is a meaningful, contemporary text, really confronting the physician with the do's and don'ts in medicine.

The Editors are grateful for his contributions and will remember him because of his qualities as a doctor, teacher, scientist and friend.