Professor A. Kint

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Andre Kint was born on the 25th July 1929 in Blanken-berge, Belgium. He obtained his MD degree at the University of Ghent in 1955. After completing his military service, he began his residency at the Department of Dermatology at Ghent University, headed by the late Prof. Jean Piérard. For three months, he was a visiting clinician at the Saint-Louis clinic in Paris headed by the late Prof. Degos. Thereafter, he was awarded a fellowship from the A. von Humboldt Stiftung and spent eight very fructuous months in the Department of Prof. Braun-Falco in Marburg a.d. Lahn. He obtained his PhD degree in 1966 by successfully defending a thesis on the histo-genesis of basal cell carcinoma.

In 1971, he was appointed chairman of the Department of Dermatology in Ghent, succeeding Jean Piérard. In the following years, he assumed various important functions in the University administration: chairman of the Medical Council (1977-1983), secretary (1978-1986) and dean (1986-1989) of the Faculty of Medicine, vice-president of the University (1989-1993).

He is a distinguished member of numerous national and international scientific societies and is also a Member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Medicine. He was both secretary and chairman of the Belgian Society of Dermatology and Venereology.

Andre Kint was strongly committed to clinical dermatology. In spite of all his administrative duties, he made every effort to be available for his patients. With roots in Belgian, French and German dermatological schools, he was able to create a personal perception of the art of dermatology. As a dermatopathol-ogist, he made important contributions to our knowledge of the histological and ultrastructural characteristics of various tumors and inflammatory dermatoses. He had a particular interest in the histogenesis of basal cell carcinoma, Paget's disease, palmoplantar pustulosis, autoimmune bullous diseases, lichen sclerosus et atrophicus and morphoea.

Andre Kint did not limit his interests to morphological dermatology: he stimulated various coworkers to explore the fields of contact dermatitis, cutaneous lymphomas, mycology and pigmented skin lesions using modern laboratory methods.

He was a supporter of teaching clinical dermatology to students using 'live' patients instead of 'dead' books. The recent trend towards less and less time for dermatology in the medical curriculum made him quite unhappy. Although his residents had to work hard, they never complained and all considered their formation in clinical dermatology as excellent.

Andre Kint is now officially leaving us. However, we are sure that he will continue to be active in dermatology. We sincerely hope that now he will be able to enjoy his favourite paintings and operas and we wish him and his family all the best!