Thanks Tom!

Tom Bergan 1939–2001

Tom Bergan, Professor of Microbiology at Rikshospitalet and the University of Oslo, Norway, died on July 19, 2001, after struggling with cancer. He was 61 years old.

Tom has been serving this journal for many years as an Editorial Board member. During that time, he reviewed a large number of submitted papers and has always been very much devoted to the success of this journal. On behalf of the previous editor, Dr. Schönfeld, as well as myself (F.S.), I wish to comment that we will always remember his invaluable contributions to this journal. Much of the work of editors and publishers often involves getting reviewers to do their work in the appropriate time and in a critical and fair way. Tom managed that very well – in spite of the many responsibilities he had. We thank him for that. Of course, he also published frequently in our journal, many of which publications became key papers.

After completing his Master of Science in Microbiology at the University of Rochester, New York, in 1965, he received the MD degree from the University of Oslo in 1966. He then went on to do postdoctoral research at the University of Oslo, where he was awarded his PhD degree in 1972. He was appointed honorary doctor (Med. Dr. h.c.) at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, in 1993. In addition to his career as a researcher, Tom Bergan also received his license to practice medicine in the USA in 1967 and in Norway in 1972. In 1977, he was authorized as a consultant of clinical microbiology in Norway.

Tom Bergan was a research fellow at the University of Rochester, New York (1964–1965), as well as at the Kaptein W. Wilhelmsen og Frues Bakteriologiske Institutt, Rikshospitalet, University of Oslo (1967–1971). He served as assistant physician in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine, Ullevål Sykehus, Oslo (1971), as well as in the Department of Surgery, Aker Hospital, Oslo (1972), and as assistant physician, general practice, for the Lørenskog public health district, Norway (1972). Further, he was assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology, Regionsykehuset and University of Tromsø (1973–1975), and in the Department of Microbiology, Institute of Pharmacy, University of Oslo (1975–1982), followed by positions as professor in the Department of Microbiology, Institute of Pharmacy, University of Oslo (1983–1993), and at the Kaptein W. Wilhelmsen og Frues Mikrobiologiske Institute (Institute of Medical Microbiology), Rikshospitalet, University of Oslo (1993–2001). In addition, he was visiting professor in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, National

University of Singapore (1985–1987), as well as chief physician (1975–1995) and consultant physician (1993–2001) in the Department of Microbiology, Aker Hospital, Oslo.

Tom Bergan's broad range of scientific and medical commitments and prolific professional status is reflected in the long list of professional societies to which he contributed as a member, including the Norwegian Medical Association, the Norwegian Society of Professional Authors, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Society for Microbiology, the British Society for the Study of Infectious Diseases, the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, the Paul-Ehrlich-Gesellschaft für Antimikrobielle Therapie, the Scandinavian Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (he was one of the founders of this society in 1981), the Infectious Disease Society of America and the International Society of Infectious Diseases.

He was a member of, and frequently chaired, several committees at the University of Oslo and in the Norwegian Society of Medicine and was further involved in the assessment of professorships in Oslo, Gothenburg, Stockholm and Helsinki.

Tom Bergan is best known internationally in the field of microbiology and infectious diseases through his very active engagement at different meetings. His contributions were invaluable and his presence always advanced the topic under discussion.

Among all his positions, the following can be mentioned:

- President of the International Society of Chemotherapy, 1997–2001,
- Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and Related Organisms, International Union of Microbiological Societies, 1986–1994,
- President of the 5th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Oslo, 1991,
- Chairman of the Norwegian Society of Medical Microbiology, branch of the Norwegian Medical Association, 1991–1993,
- Secretary of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and Related Organisms, 1982–1986,
- Secretary-General of the Scandinavian Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, 1983–1990,
- Secretary-General of the International Society of Chemotherapy, 1987–1997,
- Member of the Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of *Pseudomonas* and Related Organisms, 1978–1998,

- Member of the Executive Committee of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, 1981–1992,
- Member of the Council of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, 1994–2001,
- Member of the Board of the Scandinavian Society of Genitourinary Infections, 1982–1983,
- Member of the Council of the International Congress of Infectious Diseases, 1983–1988,
- Member of the Council of the International Society of Chemotherapy, 1983–1990,
- Member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Chemotherapy, 1985–2001,
- Member of the Council of the International Society of Infectious Diseases, 1988–1996,
- Member of the Council of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, 1995–2001,
- Member of the Executive Committee of the European Network for the Study of Experimental Infections, 1992–1998,
- Member of the Executive Committee of the Norwegian Society of Medical Microbiology, 1991–2001.

As a very popular speaker, Tom Bergan was invited to lecture and/or chair sessions on different microbiological topics in many countries, such as Åland, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea (South), Malaysia, Monaco, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Soviet Union, Spain, Sudan, Svalbard, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK, USA and Yugoslavia.

Among his many editorial appointments were that of editor for *Methods in Microbiology* (1974–1983) and for the *Newsletter of the International Society of Chemotherapy* (1991–2001). He also served as associate editor for the *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology* (1981–1989) and the *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents* (1998–2001). Further, he was a member of the editorial boards of *Annual Reviews of Antimicrobial Agents*, *Chemotherapy*, *Current Microbiology*, *Drugs and Therapy Perspectives*, *Drugs under Experimental and Clinical Research*, *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases*, *Infection*, *Infectious Diseases Digest*, *Infectious Disease Practice*, *International Journal of An-*

timicrobial Agents, Journal of Chemotherapy, Journal of Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Agents, Methods and Findings in Experimental Pharmacology, Norv. Pharm. Acta, Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Revista Española de Quimioterapia.

Tom Bergan edited 10 textbooks as well as 31 proceedings of symposia, and he published more than 500 scientific and clinical articles in international journals. The last book he edited for Karger Publishers was *Urinary Tract Infections* [1], which appeared in 1997.

Even many of those who knew Tom Bergan very well were not aware that his end would come so soon. He passed away only shortly after meeting with colleagues for a last time at the ICC congress in Amsterdam. *Chemotherapy* could also not know that his contribution in February 2001 [2] would be his last publication in the journal. He

also reviewed papers until shortly before passing away, fulfilling duties till the end. Thanks Tom.

Tom Bergan is survived by his wife Bodil, three daughters and their families. He will be sorely missed not only by his family but also by many friends, colleagues and students throughout the world who valued him deeply. So does *Chemotherapy*.

I wish to thank Carl Erik Nord for providing many of the details of Tom Bergan's life and academic career.

Fritz Sörgel

Editor-in-Chief, *Chemotherapy*

References

- 1 Bergan T (ed): *Urinary Tract Infections*. Infectiology. Basel, Karger, 1997, vol 1.
- 2 Bergan T, Klaveness J, Aasen AJ: Chelating agents. *Chemotherapy* 2001;47:10–14.