

## **Jože Trontelj, 1939–2013**

Our friend and colleague Jože has ended his days, much too early.

His impressive CV is, in brief:

Classical High School, Ljubljana—graduated with excellence in 1958

Medical Faculty, Ljubljana University—graduated in 1964

Specialized in Neurology, interested in Neurophysiology, with educational visits to Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and Academic Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden

PhD—“A study of reflex activity of single spinal motor neurones in man”—1972

Professor of Neurology, Medical and Health Faculty, Ljubljana University—1996

Senior health counselor (advisor to Slovenian Health Ministry) since 1995

In 1979 he established the Department of Neurophysiology at Ibn Sina Hospital, Kuwait and worked there periodically until 1992.

Member Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA)—1995

Secretary of SASA Section of Medical Sciences—1999–2002

Vice-president of SASA—2002

President of SASA—2008

Republic of Slovenia Medical Ethics Committee—2004

Slovenian delegate, European Council Bioethics Steering Committee—1995 (co-operated in drafting the Oviedo convention and its protocols)

Member, Culture Strategic Board of the Slovenian Government—2005–2008

Chairman of the Slovenian Health Council—1996–1998

Member, Standing Committee of the Science & Ethics Board of the All European Academies (ALLEA)—2010

Member, International Bioethics Committee (IBC) (Nominated by the Unesco General Secretary)—2010

He was awarded several high Slovenian state awards:

Boris Kidrič Foundation for Science in 1974 and 1980

Kidrič award for highest achievements in science in 1989

“Science Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia” in 2003

“Golden Order of Merit” for his endeavors and achievements in science and ethics (awarded by the President of Slovenia) in 2009.

He was the first of Erik Stålberg’s students to visit Uppsala to learn SFEMG in 1967 and brought the technique home to Ljubljana, where he implemented it very successfully. With his observant eye he saw things not previously noticed and refined and extended SFEMG not only within his own lab, but internationally. His scientific contributions are impressive, and many have learnt from him the gentle handling of the electrode and precise interpretation, open for the unexpected. His special interest was stimulation SFEMG. Among other publications, he was co-author of 3 editions of a monograph on SFEMG.

Jože devoted much of his time to bioethics in recent years. This was not only committee work, but he spread his knowledge in the field in many articles and in lectures. With a broad understanding of human

nature, he was the right person to approach with difficult questions. Jože was a true humanist and people listened to his wise comments.

The SASA, of which he was still President, plays an important role in Slovenian society. Jože's interest in science in general and in cultural and historical aspects made him the right man for this position. In spite of the fact that he liked it and felt the importance of helping his country in this field, to an outsider, it seemed to be a heavy burden.

Many of us saw Jože not only as teacher and scientist, but also as a friend. With his head held slightly to the side and with a constant smile, he saw us all individually. His warm-hearted appearance made the times we had together great moments in our lives. Many have in these last days commented on his humble and kind appearance. This image will remain in our minds, and we are thankful for all he gave us.

Jože was very close to his family, loved them, his home, his neighbors. He was a caring husband, father and grandfather. Our thoughts go to his wife, Tatjana, and the entire family. They have been his constant support and helped him enjoy his life so much.

Jože, THANK YOU!

Erik Stålberg  
Don Sanders