

IN MEMORIAM: JEAN MALEVILLE 1927 - 2015

Jean Maleville, our mentor in pediatric Dermatology, passed away on February 13th, at his family home of Savignac-les-Eglises, close to Périgueux. He was from an old Perigord family, part of which was ennobled under Napoleon (the successors of Jacques de Maleville, one of the writers of the French Civil Code). His father was a military physician in the Navy and young Jean was educated in several military ports in France and abroad, including a period he liked to recall under the Lassalists in Lebanon. He spent most of his medical career in Bordeaux, first as a student at the military medical school of the Navy based in Bordeaux (Ecole de Santé Navale) and, after a period as Associate Professor at the University of Strasbourg between 1966 and 1974, he was appointed head of the department of Dermatology and Pediatric Dermatology at the Children's Hospital of Bordeaux and Professor of Dermato-Venereology at the University of Bordeaux. His initial training at the Navy Medical School and at the Bordeaux Institute for Tropical Medicine, as well as his Strasbourg period under the reputed tropicalist André Basset, developed his interest for tropical dermatology and sexually transmitted disorders. He travelled extensively for oversea missions (French Caribbeans and Guyana, several Western and Northern African countries). In 1983 he was appointed to the French Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer. Back to Bordeaux, for the second part of his academic career, he was instrumental in the development of Pediatric Dermatology locally, nationally and at the European level. The presence of dermatologists within Bordeaux Children's hospital was a remarkable feature noted since 1919. Within this particularly favorable context, Jean Maleville collaborated actively with pediatricians and took the opportunity to develop, together with the French pioneer in the field, Marc Larrègue (who died in 2007 [1]), a training course for French and European dermatologists and pediatricians, the Arcachon Course of Pediatric Dermatology, now in its 35th edition [2]. Also with Marc Larrègue and other French colleagues especially Yves de Prost (Paris), and Edouard Grosshans (Strasbourg), he was one of the founding members of the European Society for Pediatric Dermatology (ESPD). He organized the third ESPD congress in Bordeaux, 1990, after those of Munster (1984, R. Happle) and Bari (1987, E. Bonifazi). Among honors, for which he was rather reluctant, Jean Maleville chaired the French Society of Dermatology in 1991 – 1992.

Jean Maleville will be remembered as a much respected teacher and mentor by several generations of physicians who attended the Bordeaux faculty of medicine and among dermatology trainees. His teaching was inspired by his masters of the Bordeaux School, where he was nurtured by dermatologists of the lineage of William-Auguste Dubreuilh (1857-1935), the first appointed professor in Dermatology-Venereology at the Bordeaux Medical faculty [3]. In particular, he paid a special tribute to his master Professor Pierre Joulia (1890-1965), who introduced the therapy of early syphilis by penicillin in France, despite much resistance among his peers, and who had an original epidemiologic vision of our discipline.

He will be remembered by his simplicity and affability. He was a particularly welcoming boss, very generous, endowed with a special ability to understand and accept others. He was repeatedly cited by his friends and colleagues after his passing away as an honest and caring man, who was keen to encourage the youngest generation. As late and close coworkers, we recognize these prominent qualities in our master but above all we keep in our memory his sense of humor. Professor Gérard Guillet, who trained under him at the Bordeaux Children's hospital, remembers his words when reviewing infantile radiographs: "It's stronger than me, it makes me hungry: it reminds me of a rabbit recipe". Sorry, probably very incorrect for some delicate foreign ears, but we are already living in a country of frog-eaters.

Prof. Jean Maleville is survived by his wife Moune, two children (Romain and Marie-Sophie) and one granddaughter (Claire).

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References

1) Vabres P., Taieb A. - Remembering Marc Larrègue (1935-2007) *Pediatr. Dermatol.* 25, 581-583, 2008.

2) <http://www.dermatobordeaux.fr/content/view/16/90/>

3) <http://www.biusante.parisdescartes.fr/sfhd/catalog.pdf>



Jean Maleville was presented a trophy by the members of the Italian Society for Pediatric Dermatology, on the occasion of an European symposium held in Bordeaux in his honor on the occasion of his retirement from academic life in 1994. From the left to the right, E. Bonifazi, S Menni, J.M., C Gelmetti.