

Album

PORTRAITS OF PIONEERS



F O R E W O R D S



The ERA-EDTA is happy and proud to offer you this booklet. It is the result of a carefully designed and laborious project that started three years ago, and in this way was elaborated during the terms of the two Presidents signing this foreword. It was based on an initiative of the Société de Néphrologie that was initially limited to French-speaking and Italian Pioneers of Nephrology and then extended to the whole of Europe. The big motor behind this project was the invaluable and tenacious work of Professor Pierre Ronco who contacted all Pioneers, coordinated the organization of their interviews, and was present at all of them when they took place.

This project could only be finalized thanks to the talent of Giorgina Piccoli, Nephrologist and artist, who conducted all the interviews with delicacy and persistence, and of Gilberto Richiero, the brilliant filmmaker, to whom we owe the thrilling portraits of the book.

We are sure you will enjoy this unique jewel, which will take you back to the starting days of European Nephrology, and which is offered to you with great pleasure by the ERA-EDTA.

Gerard London and Raymond Vanholder

During the last three years, Giorgina Piccoli, a nephrologist and an artist, and her friends film makers Gilberto Richiero and Paola Giusiano, interviewed pioneers of European nephrology.

I had the privilege to attend with passion and emotion most of the interviews. In the current turmoil which affects the planet, looking back at the history of Nephrology is fascinating, not as a mere history of facts, but as a history of people whose approach to the technical and clinical problems, as well as to the ethical dilemmas, maintains a vital interest and represents a precious teaching tool for the generations to come.

This book is not a book of history, it is a book of memory, art and emotion. Thanks to the dedication and talent of Giorgina Piccoli who selected the quotes with care, respect and passion, and to the incredible talent of Gilberto Richiero the photographer, this book is a moving testimony of the vivid relation between medicine and art. I hope you will feel the same emotion as I had in turning over the pages of this fascinating human adventure.

Pierre Ronco

EACH OF US HAS ONE OR MORE SPECIAL PERSONS
TO WHOM THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED IN OUR MINDS.

BUT WE FEEL THAT THIS EUROPEAN STORY
SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO PROFESSOR GABRIEL RICHEL,
MASTER OF MANY MASTERS

Album

PORTRAITS OF PIONEERS

INTERVIEWS BY GIORGINA B. PICCOLI
IMAGES BY GILBERTO RICHIERO
WITH A TEXT BY GIORGIO CATTANEO



Andante ♩ = 90

coro
bambini



L'o riz zon te del tem po ri na see con me sul la ter

G A B R I E L R I C H E T

F R A N C E



We need a title: a turning point in the life of a boy.

It was in 1928, I was playing in the Luxembourg gardens in front of the avenue linking the Senate to the Observatory and we were playing Jeu de Barres*.

But I was not paying much attention because I saw a very small bud on a chestnut tree and we were at the end of January, or in the first days of February...

* Cops and Robbers



...and I remember from time to time the sight of this bud
in the depth of the winter, when one thinks that there is only
dead wood all around, but that shows that the trees are alive, preparing
themselves to flourish and to be covered by leaves,
and suddenly I realised the yearly renewal of nature...





STANLEY SHALDON
ENGLAND AND FRANCE



I think I am the wandering Jew.
Seriously.

No I don't really have a home...



The concept that dialysis is the insulin of the chronic nephritic is a dream.
It is now a demanding exercise, it's a service industry now,
it probably cannot be the insulin of chronic nephritics,
but it provides people with maintenance of life of a reasonable quality...





ANITA ÄPERIA
SWEDEN



No regret, whatsoever.

I love what I do, I still do, I still look forward every morning to go to work.

So no regret.

I also understand the beauty of science,
but also that you have to strive for perfection...



The masters... they would have faith in you,
they have to be encouraging, you have to look up to them
because of their knowledge and their integrity
and they should also be a bit demanding
because you should always meet with challenges,
if you don't, you lose a little bit of your initiative.





L U I S H E R N A N D O
S P A I N



Yes, I think, clearly there is poetry,
and poetry of any kind,
lyric poetry, dramatic poetry, epic poetry,
all forms of poetry are present in medicine.



Medicine deals with people, and people are poetry.





M E N E L A O S G P A P A D I M I T R I O U
G R E E C E



You become a doctor to help people.
And to help people you have to have some humanity,
a big one,
a big section of humanity in your heart...



How to speak, how to be modest, modest,
not to say big words
such as I can do this,
nobody else can do this...



A master: a person who has the modesty
to understand that he knows nothing,
who has great attention to the patient,
who's able to acknowledge his mistakes,
and who has the humility to confront himself with colleagues
more experienced than him, or maybe also less experienced.



A lesson that we all have learned,
even if only a few admit it,
is that very often it's the patient to teach us something.





E V E R T D O R H O U T - M E E S

T H E N E T H E R L A N D S



...I'll advise to look at the patient, because the patient will teach you ...



Every treatment is an experiment, this is one of my dogmas,
and when you are not aware that this is an experiment,
then you will not learn from it,
but when you are aware that this is an experiment,
then you may discover other new things...





O T T O S C H Ü C K
C Z E C H R E P U B L I C



Well, I search in art a certain balance,
and the art the most understandable for me, or the most contributing,
is music, classical music and literature.
These are probably two most important factors,
which bring me the joy...



In Bach there is a lot of analyses some of them cybernetic,
studying the relation between the combination of tones and other elements.

I generally believe that all relations are characterized by combinations
depending on elements,
no matter if they are notes, or molecules, or words, or nucleic acids...



Andante ♩ = 90

CdB
donna I

Dans la cresser

F R A N C I S Z E K K O K O T

P O L A N D



...But during my long professional life,
I learnt so much about being modest, modest and once more modest...



...and also if you are a believer,
your approach to the patients is a different one,
because this is my brother and my sister, not only my patient,
this is my brother and my sister, and you have to follow the commandments
to love your brother and your sister,
the second commandment of God,
to love God first and to believe in him and the second one is to love your
brother and your sister as yourself,
and therefore I think this is very important.
This is my life philosophy.





J A C Q U E S B E R N H E I M

I S R A E L



I'll retire in a short time,
and there was a party, and my younger colleagues told me
that what I taught them was the ethics towards people and towards patients,
and that they were grateful for that...



I have always said
that you should take care of your patients exactly as you'd like
that others would take care of your parents,
or of your brother and your sister,
the same things that you'd wish would be done
for the sick ones in your family.





K E M A L O N E N

T U R K E Y



The physician, a good physician
has to be very tolerant about patients, this is the problem.
Tolerance, tolerance is essential for doctors,
as far as their relation with their patients is concerned.



Choosing medicine again?

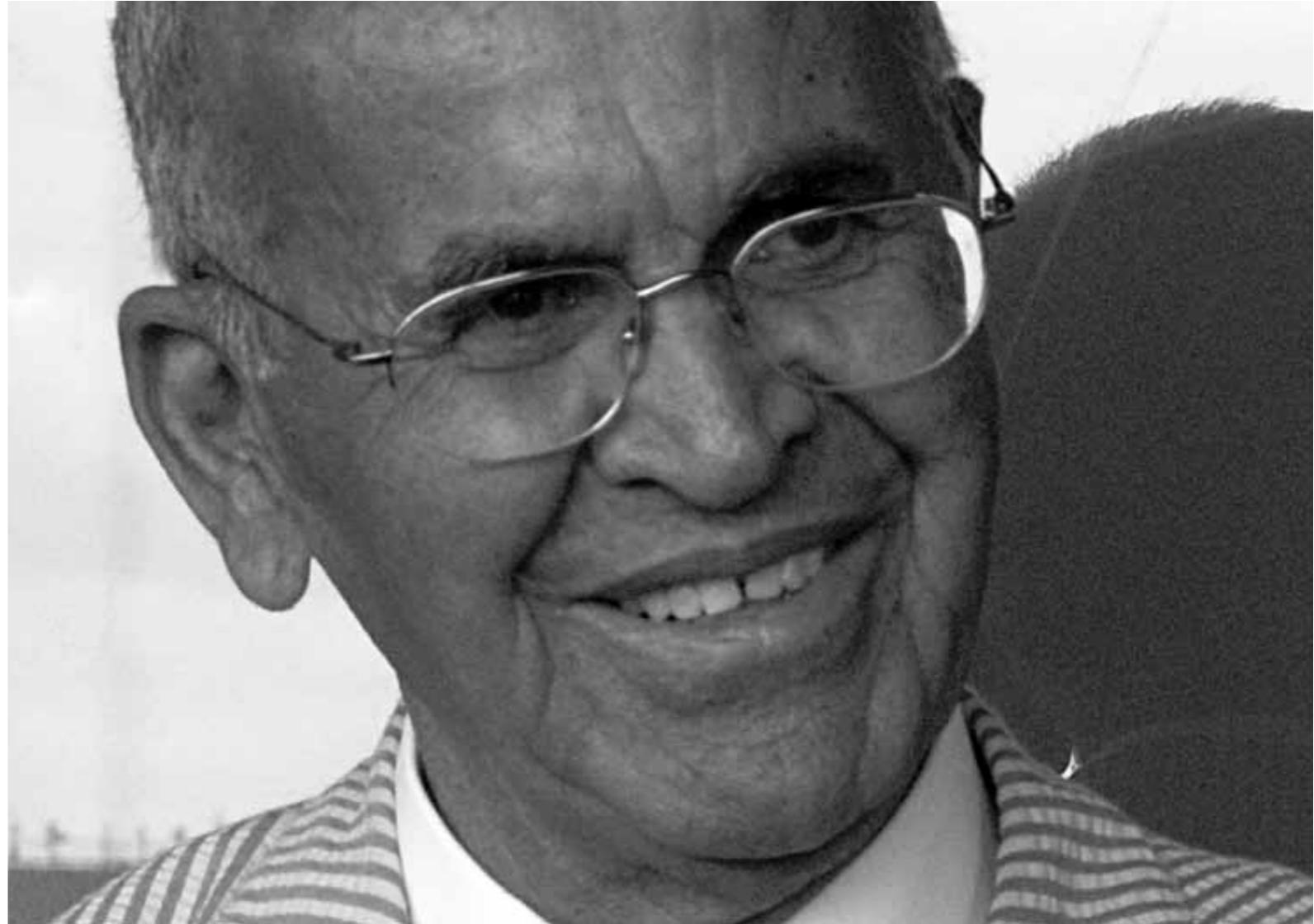
This is an interesting question, I have some doubts...
the medical profession is a very difficult profession,
you have to devote yourself to make a career,
I have a special devotion to the medical profession...





S A L I C A G L A R

T U R K E Y



I chose medicine, that is being a doctor, because I like “humanity”.
If you like humanity, the good job for you is being a doctor.



If someone doesn't like humanity,
he has no chance to become a good doctor.

This is my life philosophy.



Poetry is but the transfiguration of a dream,
of a hypothetical reality or of a true reality
translated into written words
and this becomes the transposition of a vision...



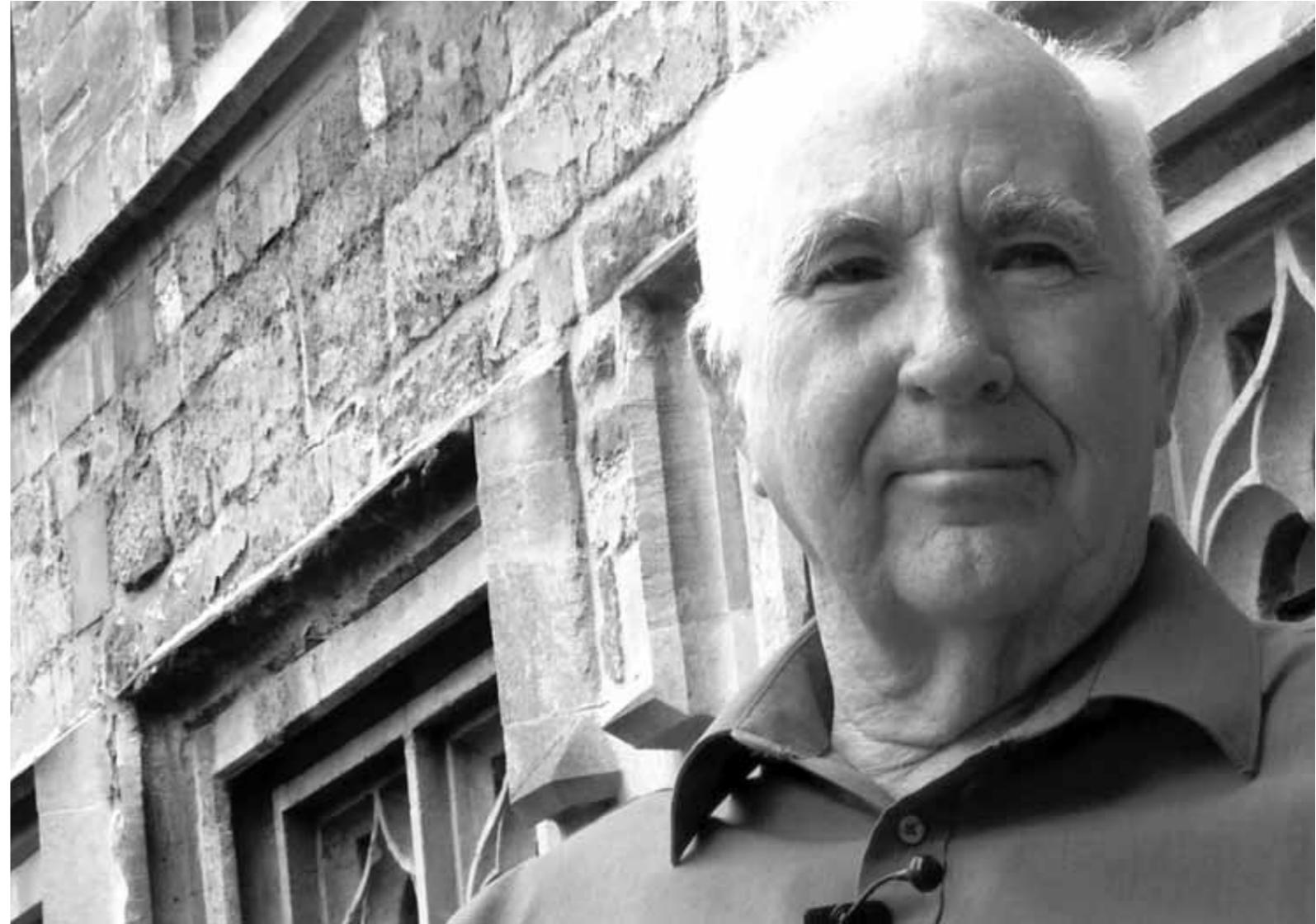
Medicine, in the moment in which one tries to study it in depth,
with the aim of getting to know man,
requires having a vision.





Pno. 1

P E T E R M O R R I S
U K



Be nice to people...

I was proud of myself when, as head of Surgery,
I knew the names even of the cleaners in the ward,
and I tried to get the students to get to know everybody,
not only the colleagues, not only the nurses, but also the cleaners,
as they are an important part of any team in the hospital...



David Hume was a very charismatic surgeon.

When he went to Richmond, Virginia, segregation had just been broken down, but still the black population in the hospital had their own restaurant and the white residents ate in another restaurant.

David Hume never had lunch, he just had a Coca-Cola...

and when he heard about this he said "I will have lunch"

and twice a week he went into the black restaurant, and as he sat there, the black residents came around him,

and when the white residents heard of that,

they came in the black restaurant, and after about six months when he established that they were mixing well together, he never had lunch again...





T O M A S Z S Z E P I E T O W S K I
P O L A N D



...of course there was no equipment
but there was one urologist who had an article about doing angiography
by the Seldinger method.
I looked at this article and concluded that we could do such angiography
in Wrocław, but we had no equipment.
One still could buy a tube and take a very thick needle to be able to guide
a compensation spring; however, we did not have such a spring!
Then I bought a bass guitar string.
The bass string of the guitar could be stretched out a bit...



Thus, I believe I was definitely not a master.

If I did something, I shared with others how to do it,
for the benefit of patients, but nothing more.

I never considered it more important than the patient.





C L A U D E J A C O B S
FRANCE



Choosing medicine?

For sure, it's a profession of which firstly people will always have the need, secondly it's one of the few professions that one can exercise throughout all the professional life span, thirdly it's a profession through which one still has the possibility to do much good to other people...



Choosing nephrology?

I think so,

because it's a specialty that has not yet said its last word,

there is so much progress to be done...





C A R L E R I K M O G E N S E N
D E N M A R K



I like medicine, but I have also a key interest in art,
and maybe I would be a student or an art historian if I would start now...



What I really like is to see who is the first one to develop a topic,
and see how this topic is taken on by other people,
just like in medicine too,
and see who found out first about an important topic...



And now I'm going to say something provocative, if I may...
I think, projecting it on myself,
I'm not generalising it but if you come, as I came,
from a relatively lower social class, as I have lived through my young years,
among really working class people,
I think you have more chances to have more an eye for the social problems
that are related to our patients
than if you come from a very highly privileged class...



...don't misinterpret my words,
don't think that I think that you cannot be a fantastic doctor
even if you are the royal prince, for example,
but the chances are greater that you have been more exposed
to the daily life problems...



You need a great knowledge to be a physician, you really have to study hard, going deep into the problems, being always ready to search for the reasons and the solutions.

And then, you have to develop in your own soul the emotive imagination, which means learning how to get into “the shoes” of the patient, an emotive imagination that develops different emotional mechanisms and which is very important...



I do not know what “ideal physician” means;
the ideal physician doesn't exist;
ideal is not the exact word.

The physician is a person for whom the interest of the patient
is more important than his own one.

The physician has to give everything to the patient,
and more than everything, as he belongs to the patient.

This is what my father taught me and this is what I feel...





CHARLES VAN YPERSELE DE STRIHOU
BELGIUM



I would question him, and ask what is important for you:
the gesture of the surgeon,
the reflection of the internist
or the stubbornness of the one who works in a laboratory?

What is important for you?
And the answer is very different from one person to the other.
Which are the important clues
to take into consideration in making a choice?



As for the question “why Nephrology” I would answer:
because Nephrology is the queen of all battles.



Sop
solo

Quand vo-le-t-il le temps en dor-mi-pour

K A R L - M A R T I N K O C H

G E R M A N Y



The decisions you have to make, you have to make them by yourself...
and it's not so much yes or no in most of the cases,
medicine is not always yes or no...



Medicine is more complicated,
I think,
because we still do not have a complete overview of what we are handling.





J U L E S T R A E G E R

F R A N C E



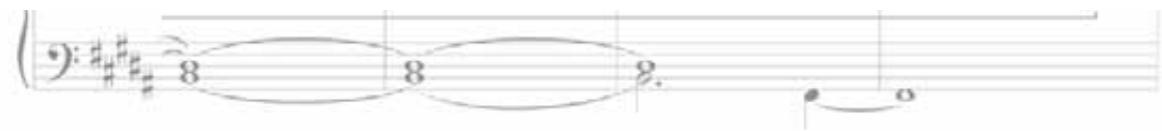
My advice would be to preserve in medicine,
in spite of its more and more technical characteristics, its human eye...
Too often, presently, physicians are in a hurry
and do not have the time to listen enough to the patients...



And I remember what Charles Nicolle said
when he was head of the Service in Tunis,
in the hospital now named after him,
answering one of his colleagues who was reporting on a woman
who was suffering terribly...

...and in the end he asked: "but did you consider taking her hand?"





JANOS RADO

HUNGARY



I would be interested mostly in the universal things,
the same that come from Africa,
from Hungary, from Belgium, for example...



Curiosity is also very important in Medicine,
absolutely important,
because a physician should be a very ethical person,
but the personal engine of activity may be curiosity.

I do not want to go into psychoanalytic depth,
but the sensitivity of doctors towards curiosity is very, very important...



CdB
D 1

vo lant la bas le monde ne meurt pas il gli

E B E R H A R D R I T Z

G E R M A N Y



There is no question.

Since Hippocrates we know that compassion,
interaction with the patient,
regarding him more than a lump of meat with some malfunction,
is essential to have humanitarian Medicine.



A student who was in my semester had a father who was involved
in these medical “experiments” in Buchenwald,
and I can tell you, if you hear about this,
you are cured for life about how to handle the patients...





V A L S A M A K I S H A D J I C O N S T A N T I N O U
G R E E C E



History is written by “parees”, that means a group of friends.



This happens in everyday life:
we do not always follow programs and procedures,
but there are a few friends gathering together,
who say “ok,
this is interesting, we are going to do that” and we do it...

Then we ask the authorities to approve it
and this is what happened in Greece with dialysis...





QUIRINO MAGGIORE
ITALY



I wish that they may accomplish what they dream of,
as the young generations are the salt of life,
we hope they will give us the best...

I wish they would go back to the lessons of the masters.

Medicine has many heroes, who make us proud of our profession.

The history of medicine has often been neglected,
and many young nephrologists do not know who was Kolff, Scribner...

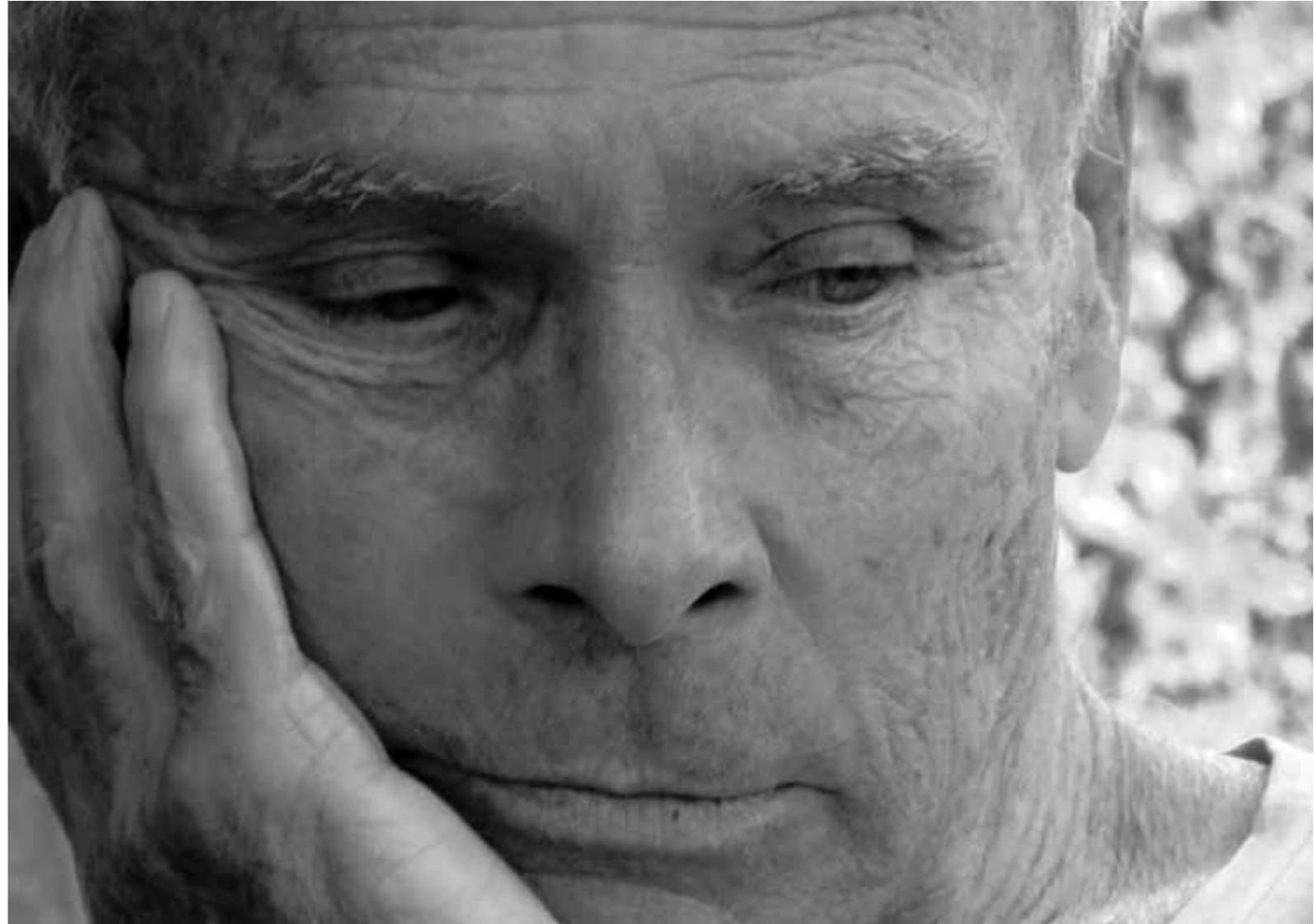


If you do not have your pantheon with your heroes,
you cannot have the pride of your profession...

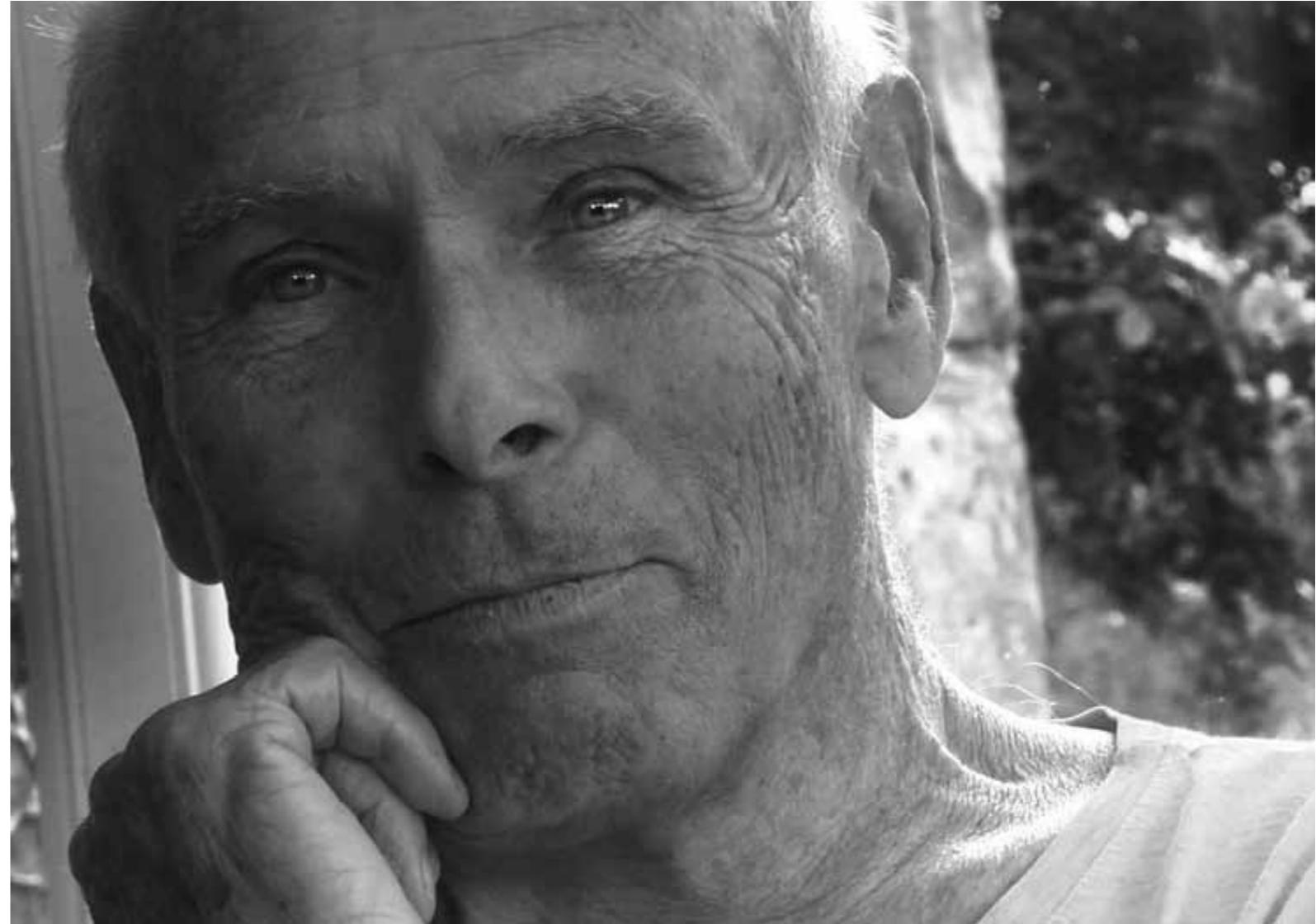




S T E W A R T C A M E R O N
U K



I looked for the unconventional masters,
because I like originality
and I went for someone who was doing something different if I could,
not necessarily because it was different
but because nearly always what was being done was inappropriate...



I suggested that every major national and local grant-giving body should have a percentage of money, five per cent, ten per cent, who knows, something like that, nobody will be going to quarrel with, to be called wild man money.

This is for the ideas that either are going to be rubbish or are going to win the next Nobel prize or the Nobel prize after that... And you can't tell the difference to begin with... So you want wild man money... And that's how research should be funded and performed...



A F T E R W O R D



This book, as all of our work on the Archives and on the memoirs of our Society, is dedicated to the absentees.

Trying to realize an archive of interviews, aimed at offering not only the chronology of the facts but some living portraits of the protagonists of the history of nephrology and dialysis, is an endless adventure destined to remain incomplete and insufficient.

That's why this book, gathering a selection from a long journey and a long history, is dedicated to the Masters who are not depicted here.

Each decision and selection is arbitrary, and each Country has a treasure of heroes who left examples of superb clinical practice, moral integrity and innovative creativity, and who dedicated their lives to improving this new discipline that changes not only the history

of the patients with a kidney disease but also the idea of the body and of the limits of life.

Dialysis and transplantation have brought profound changes in ethics and medicine and still confront us with new challenges.

Looking at the past may be a way to prepare our generation and the next ones to maintain the focus on the suffering of bodies and souls and on the challenges of new technologies.

As Edmund Burke said:

“Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it”.

Thus, we offer our work as an occasion for reflection on the importance of the past, and as an invitation to continue learning from our history, worshipping our Masters.

SONGS OF THE OPENING CEREMONY



L'orizzonte del tempo rinasce con me sulla terra
Abitare le nubi e l'azzurro dei prati e la pioggia
Ho vestito di luce la storia del mondo bambino,
La memoria di me sulla terra fiorisce di stelle, quassù

Nevicava un'oceano di voci la notte che il tempo ha chiamato il mio nome
Da quel giorno mi sveglia il respiro del vento che canta con me

The horizon of time is reborn with me on the Earth
Living in the clouds and the blue of the fields and the rain
I have dressed in light the history of the infant world
The memory of myself on the Earth flourishes with stars, on high

An ocean of voices was snowing in the night when time called my name
Since that day I'm awakened by the breath of the wind which keeps singing with me



Every time I go away I fly away into the sky

I can still remember

The way I move, the way I use to say goodbye to the daylight

My heart is a rainbow

The silent Sea, the Ocean wild and everything is like a smile

My life is a journey

There is a sacred flower in the deepest secret of my soul

It's name is Tomorrow



J'écoute la voix de mon petit rossignol

Et dis moi :

est-ce que vous libérez vos ailes ?

et

nous sommes tous les enfants bleus du ciel

I'm listening to the voice of my little nightingale

Who's telling me

Are you going to free your wings

And

We are all the blue children of the sky



Malu mémoire, geheugen, atmina, pamièz

Ces fleurs du ciel, les étoiles, des chansons pour toi

Mater alma tu, Fili mi, In esto infinito mare, Eris



T H A N K S T O A L L
T H E M A S T E R S W H O
D E D I C A T E D T H E I R T I M E
T O O U R W O R K



Thanks to all our friends, who, for the sake of a common dream, joined us in endless evenings reviewing the first archives, in long afternoons playing for the film, in helping us with all the practical things we needed, forgot and lost.

Thanks to the artists, whose contribution is sometimes tangible, such as the poems of Giorgio Cattaneo, the suggestions of Davide Giuva and the musical arrangements of Fabio Gurian, and sometimes intangible, as only friendship can be.

The music of the Opening Ceremony, accompanying the portraits, comes from the soul of Gilberto Richiero, the composer, and is alive thanks to the long-standing friendship with the Corou de Berra,

to the words of Giorgio Cattaneo, our poet,
to the help of Alberto Vacchiotti,
guitar player and catalyst of the help of friends and friends of friends,
to Nadia Kuprina, young and passionate opera singer,
to Fabio Gurian, the conductor and intelligent and sensible supporter,
and to the tower of Babel of all who dared believing in music
and friendship and new, perhaps foolish, ideas.

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