
In memorium



The entire rheumatological community is now mourning the premature death of one of its most respected leaders, Dr. E.C. LeRoy, who suddenly died on May 16, 2002 in Ancona, Italy. After receiving his MD degree at the University of North Carolina, Carwile LeRoy continued his training at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and the National Institute of Health. In 1969 he succeeded Dr. C. Christian as director of the William Daniels Faulkner Arthritis Center at Columbia University; in 1975 he moved to Charleston to direct the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, and then from 1995 the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical University of South Carolina. In recognition of his scientific excellence, the University of South Carolina granted him its highest faculty honour in 2000, the title of Distinguished University Professor. There are many prominent rheumatologists around the world who studied under him and consider him their *maestro*.

The scientific community is greatly indebted to Carwile LeRoy for his fundamental and pioneering work aimed at understanding the principle pathogenetic mechanisms of scleroderma. He was also a member of numerous international scientific journals and publications. *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology* is particularly indebted to Carwile; he was an active member of its Editorial Board since its foundation in 1983, and had always provided warm and continuous support to the growth of the journal.

I personally have lost not only a valued colleague but one of my dearest friends in the rheumatological community. I first met Carwile in 1969 while I was studying at Columbia University and I still harbour very fond memories of that period. To his wife and family “il commosso abbraccio di tutta la comunita’ del giornale [a heartfelt embrace from the entire family of the journal]”.

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