

## New Member of the Editorial Board

**Professor Joop van Dongen, MD, PhD** was born in 1930 in the Netherlands into a family of both medical and artistic roots. His father was a professor of gynaecology, while his grandfather – a renowned painter.

Professor van Dongen graduated from the Medical Faculty of the University of Amsterdam in the year 1956, and in that very same year he began to specialise in surgery. In 1961 he completed his dissertation "Hematogenous metastases: an experimental study". Between 1963 and 1964 he trained at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, at the Oesterreichisches Krebsforschungs Institut in Vienna and at the Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris. Then he began to work as an oncological surgeon at the Institute of Oncology in Amsterdam, where, since 1983, he has been Head of Department. In 1985 he was granted the title of Professor of Oncological Surgery at the University of Amsterdam.

Professor van Dongen's main scientific interests oscillate around breast cancer, melanoma, regional perfusion therapy, the biology and treatment of metastases, malignancies of the testes, quality of life and history of medicine. His papers were printed in highly esteemed medical journals. He was one of the propagators of breast conserving therapy and he conducted some of the most eminent studies in this field.

He has been, and is, an active member of numerous scientific societies, among which is the EORTC, in which he has held the function of Chairman of the Breast Cancer Group and Member of the Board. He has also been Vice-president of the ESSO (European Society for Surgical Oncology) and Member of the Board of EUSOMA (European Society of Mastology), FECS (Federation of European Cancer Societies), SIS (Societe Internationale de Senologie), EBTCG (Early Breast Cancer Trials Co-operative Group) and of numerous Dutch societies.

Professor van Dongen is also Honorary Member of several scientific societies – in the Netherlands, Venezuela, Australia, and, since last months, also in Poland. He is a great friend of Poland – it was due to his initiative that Polish oncologists were invited to cooperate with the EORTC. Under his care and guidance numerous Polish surgeons had trained at the Institute of Oncology in Amsterdam. The Professor has visited Poland a number of times and has actively participated in many of our conferences. The monograph *Breast Cancer*, of which he is one of the authors, has been published in Poland under the editorship of Professor Jassem.

Last, but not least, Professor van Dongen is both a connoisseur and a lover of art.