

Amnon (Amy) Piepsz, MD (1938–2021)

Amnon Piepsz was born in 1938 in Antwerp (Belgium) and died in Brussels (Belgium) on July 26, 2021, after a 2-year illness. He completed his studies in pediatrics in 1967 at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and became interested in nuclear medicine methodologies very early in his career, attracted by its physiologic and noninvasive approach. He completed his studies in nuclear medicine in 1969 at the VUB and advanced there rapidly to become a full professor of both pediatrics and nuclear medicine. His PhD thesis in 1988 was on a “Methodology of separate clearance measurement by means of ^{99m}Tc -DTPA and the gamma camera.”



Dr. Piepsz radiated enthusiasm for nuclear medicine throughout his career and was a major contributor to the “Consensus report on quality control of quantitative measurements of renal function obtained from the renogram” (*Semin Nucl Med.* 1999; 29:146–159), published by the International Scientific Committee of Radionuclides in Nephrourology (ISCORN). His main areas of interests are reflected in more than 250 peer-reviewed publications and were directed toward development of clearance methodologies in children and adults and both experimental and clinical studies related to pediatric nephrourologic problems.

He worked as a pediatrician in a general outpatient clinic with special interests in urinary tract infections, the mother–child relationship, and psychosomatic diseases. Most of his career was spent at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Saint-Pierre (Brussels, Belgium) and in the Academic Hospital of the VUB. After his official retirement, he continued to work as a volunteer at Ghent University Hospital, where he pursued his research and the education of trainees.

Dr. Piepsz became a genuine world citizen, giving lectures and courses in such diverse locales as Bombay, Cape Town, Djakarta, and Paris. He also lectured under the sponsorship of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European School of Nuclear Medicine (European Association of Nuclear Medicine [EANM]), and the Université Paris-Sud. In addition, he was active in supporting the development of nuclear medicine in many less developed countries and in South America, especially Chile. He was fluent in multiple

languages, including French, Flemish, German, English, Italian, and Spanish and loved to visit cities to become familiar with their inhabitants and cultures.

He was an active member of the Societies of Nuclear Medicine and of Pediatrics of Belgium and of the EANM. He was the beloved chair of the Paediatric Task Group of the EANM, on which he served for more than 20 years. He served as an editor of the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and a scientific reviewer for *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and many other journals. He also coedited *Functional Imaging in Nephro-Urology* (London, UK: Taylor and Francis; 2006) under the auspices of ISCORN.

His life outside of medicine was rich. As a 15-year-old, he earned First Prize in piano at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique of Brussels. An extraordinary pianist, he played a wide range of music with expertise and feeling. He gave private concerts in duet with a violinist and also sang bass in the European Union Choir (of which he was president from 1999–2004). He was a lover of art and liked to swim, play tennis, and hike in the mountains with colleagues.

His nickname, Amy, perfectly characterized his generous personality (“ami” being French for “friend”). He had qualities rarely seen in a single person and was an inspirational figure for all in nuclear medicine. He was especially attentive to trainees and eager to share his scientific knowledge and clinical hands-on techniques. He was far more than an imaging specialist; he was an attentive clinician and sympathetic physician who was devoted to his pediatric patients, their parents, members of his department, and his collaborators. He always shared his enthusiasm and joy with others. We will miss him and remember him fondly.

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