

Obituary

Edouard Drouhet 1919–2000

Edouard Drouhet, Professeur Honoraire at the Institut Pasteur, Paris, deceased on 1st January 2000 in Paris.

Edouard Drouhet was born on 8th June 1919 in Barlad, Rumania. He was promoted Doctor of Medicine in 1944 in Bukarest and received a Diploma of Serology and Dermatology in 1946 in Paris. He joined the Institut Pasteur in 1954 as 1st Class Assistant in the Service of Phytopathology and was appointed Laboratory Chief in 1960. On 1st January 1972 he was appointed Professor, and from January 1981, after retirement of Gabriel Segretain, he was Head of the Mycology Unit until 1987, when he retired from active duties.

Professor E. Drouhet has dedicated all his research activities and engagement as a physician to the domain of medical mycology. He entered this speciality as a pioneer at a time when the considerable development in this field could not yet be foreseen.

Professor E. Drouhet was the first in France who made experimental studies on newly developed antifungals, amphotericin B, then 5-fluorocytosine and the azoles. He was involved in developing susceptibility tests in vitro as well as experimental animal models of fungal infections. Furthermore he developed serological tests for diagnosing candidosis and aspergillosis. He was one of the first who studied the immune response in cryptococcosis as well as clinical aspects and the therapeutic monitoring of exotic mycoses. His incessant curiosity, his enthusiasm, his constant readiness to work made him capable to cover all domains of medical mycology. He acquired encyclopaedic knowledge on fungi and fungal infections, and it was less than one year ago that he described a new species: *Emmonsia pasteuriana*.

He recognised the importance of training efforts in developing this specialised domain and initiated the Course in Medical Mycology of the Institut Pasteur which permitted hundreds of French and foreign mycologists to receive excellent education.

Professor Drouhet created the Centre National de Référence des Mycoses et des Antifongiques repre-

senting a turntable and an observatory of mycology in France.

In collaboration with his colleagues F. Mariat and G. Segretain, Edouard Drouhet created the Société Française de Mycologie Médicale in which he held the positions of the General Secretary as well as the President. His special engagement was dedicated to editing the *Journal de Mycologie Médicale* up to the last days of his life. He was one of the Charter Members of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology ISHAM of which he was elected Vice-President having participated in all 13 Congresses hitherto. He recognised the necessity of founding the European Confederation of Medical Mycology ECMM, positioned in a level between ISHAM on the one hand and the national Societies for medical mycology on the other hand. The 5th ECMM Congress, held in 1999 in Dresden, was the last international meeting in which he participated actively with a great lecture on *Emmonsia pasteuriana*.

The undersigned became acquainted with Professor Drouhet when participating and being his disciple in the Cours Supérieure de Mycologie Médicale of the Institut Pasteur in Paris in 1963. Originating from these early relations a close friendship developed based on the respect to his outstanding personality. I saw him only at the end of November at the occasion of the SFMM Meeting in Paris discussing with him details of his last publication on *Emmonsia pasteuriana*.

The name of Professor Edouard Drouhet is well known and respected by the mycologists all over the world regarding him one of the fathers of medical mycology. His attachment to the Institut Pasteur was pronounced.

Like all his French colleagues and mycologists all over the world, Professor Drouhet's friends and admirers in Germany are profoundly saddened by his death and mourn his loss.

J. Müller