February 22, 2017, Fred Boen passed away. He was an icon in the field of peritoneal dialysis (PD).

S.T. (Fred) Boen was born in Indonesia in 1927 and studied medicine in Jakarta, Indonesia, until 1949, when he and his wife moved to The Netherlands. He continued his study at the University of Amsterdam and wrote his PhD thesis, Peritoneal Dialysis, A Clinical Study of Factors Governing its Effectiveness, during his fellowship in internal medicine at the Binnengasthuis, which was a university hospital in Amsterdam, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. J.G.G. Borst. This 166-page thesis, published in 1959, became the standard on PD in the early 1960s. It includes an extensive review of the literature on PD from 1877 to 1958, covering experimental data on normal and uremic animals as well as early experiments with PD in patients in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 comprises an analysis of the kinetics of intermittent PD from data in patients with acute renal failure. These were modeled to diffusion curves for several solutes. At the end of this chapter, he made a comparison between PD and extracorporeal dialysis with the artificial kidney and concluded that no essential differences between the 2 modalities existed for diffusion of solutes. The management of acute renal failure, either conservatively or using dialysis, is discussed in Chapter 3. It includes the technique, difficulties and complications, and indications for PD. Case histories of 22 severely ill patients with acute renal failure treated with this new procedure are described in Chapter 4, illustrated with pictures presenting the course of the disease during the PD treatment. Nine of the 22 survived.

The content of the thesis was published in Medicine in 1961, promoting PD as a relatively simple and effective procedure to treat patients with kidney failure, even for chronic dialysis. As a result of this paper, Dr. Belding Scribner invited Fred Boen to the North West Kidney Center in Seattle, offering him the
possibility to continue his research. Boen accepted this invitation and moved with his wife and children to Seattle in 1962, where he worked until 1965, setting up a program for chronic PD at home. In 1964, he edited a book on PD entitled *Peritoneal Dialysis in Clinical Medicine*, the first and only book on PD at that time. After the introduction of continuous ambulatory PD (CAPD) in 1976 by Popovich and Moncrief, Boen promoted CAPD in the Netherlands and was involved in the first Dutch publication on PD.

Fred Boen was also active in international societies. He was elected as the first vice-president of the newly formed International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis in 1984. From 1979 until 1984, he was secretary-treasurer of the European Renal Association – Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA) and became an honorary member of this Association in 1988. In 1991, Fred Boen received the Special Recognition Award in Peritoneal Dialysis at the Annual Dialysis Conference in Nashville. He received the ‘Celebration of Excellence’ from the North West Kidney Foundation in 1996. In the same year, Fred was honored with the James W. Haviland award for outstanding Achievement in Nephrology, for which he was commended by Bill Clinton, then president of the United States.

In 2009, 50 years after Boen completed his PhD thesis, a special article was published in *Peritoneal Dialysis International* to celebrate this landmark. Fred Boen was very pleased with this publication, but at that time his medical situation had begun to deteriorate. He suffered from heart problems, and, in February 2017, he had a stroke and passed away, nearly 90 years old. We will remember him as a kind and dedicated person and one of the founding fathers of PD.

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