



WSPID is both delighted and proud to announce that our Treasurer, Professor Ronald de Groot has received the royal decoration of Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion.

The announcement of this prestigious award was made public by the Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), Hugo de Jonge who passed on the King's message to Professor de Groot during the ESPID congress opening ceremony on 27th October 2020. The official medal ceremony will take place in 2021.

Profess de Groot's exemplary career started as a newly qualified physician in tropical medicine and spending 3 years in Nigeria which has started his lifelong passion for sharing knowledge with health professionals from low resource settings. This is also reflected in his work as past president of ESPID, his current role as an executive officer of WSPID and working with other charities active in low resource settings.

Not only did Professor de Groot leave his mark abroad but he also played an instrumental role back in his home country, The Netherlands. He was the founder of Pediatric Infectious Diseases specialty in The Netherlands, developing the fundamental and clinical aspects of conditions such as sepsis and meningitis. Professor de Groot was also a member of the Health Council and an advisor to the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment.

Part of his clinical service was spent at Radboud University Medical Centre (UMC) in Nijmegen, The Netherlands from 2005 until his retirement in 2013. Again, he made major contributions in the development of educational resources and the transfer of knowledge in his role as Head of the Department of Pediatrics. He was the mentor of approximately 50 young PhD students during his career at the Erasmus University and the Radboud UMC.

Professor de Groot's knowledge of PID globally and in diverse settings, combined with his energy and passion is hugely beneficial to WSPID and is helping us move to the next level as an organisation, noted Professor Mark Cotton, WSPID President.

Please join us in congratulating Professor de Groot for receiving this well-deserved award for his service to PID medicine abroad and in his home country The Netherlands.