

## **Professor Ephraim (Freddy) Avni**

It is with great pleasure and pride that we celebrate the career of Professor Ephraim (Freddy) Avni, awarding him the Gold Medal of the ESPR, 2013.



Prof Avni was born in 1951 in Israël and moved to Belgium in 1959. He studied for and was awarded his medical degree (MD) at the “Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)” in 1976. He began his training in Radiology in Brussels, but also ventured to train in Paediatric Radiology in Paris at “Enfants Malades” with Prof J Sauvegrain, then to Boston Children’ Hospital, Harvard Medical School as a fellow in 1980, under the supervision of Dr John Kirkpatrick. Prof Avni returned home to become Chief and Professor of Radiology at the Department of Medical Imaging, Erasme Hospital, ULB, Brussels, Belgium.

Prof Avni’s intellectual curiosity and prowess led him to study further and he was awarded his PhD in 1992, again at ULB: entitled ‘The contribution of obstetrical US for the evaluation, understanding and treatment of selected fetal diseases’. He went on to become very actively involved within the society from his first ESPR meeting in Brussels in 1978 becoming Treasurer General Secretary and President of ESPR (and annual meeting organizer) in 1994.

Official responsibilities within the Radiological Societies

Treasurer ESPR 1995–1999

General secretary ESPR 1999–2008

General Secretary RBSR 2004–2012

Chairman Subspecialty Committee (ESR) 2009–2011

Awards, accolades and memberships

J Lefebvre award 1985

Pioneer Award SPR 2001.

Honorary member French Radiological Society 2009.

Honorary member ESPR 2010

General Secretary (French Speaking) of the Royal Belgian Society of Radiology.

Member of the Executive Council of the European Society of Radiology.

Member of ESUR, ESR, RSNA, SFR, ESGAR.

Corresponding member SPR, SUR.

He is currently working in positions in Brussels (Erasme University hospital, Queen Fabiola Childrens' Hospital) and Lille (Senior Consultant, Department of Pediatric Radiology Jeanne de Flandre Mother and Child Hospital, University of Lille).

Prof Avni's contribution to visionary leadership, teaching and education is legendary. His particular area of interest is within foetal imaging and paediatric urinary tract imaging, where he is an internationally renowned and iconic leader in his field. He has published over 150 peer-reviewed publications, 2 books and 25 book chapters. He is a reviewer for 8 international journals.

However those who are lucky enough to know 'Freddy' will understand that the written word alone cannot encapsulate the essence of his persona. His sharp, incisive brain, his unfathomable wisdom, wit and his perspicacity are invaluable and unique. When combined with his energy and focus the mélange is unique and "c'est Freddy".

His love and dedication to his family is tangible i.e. his wife Jacqueline (Lussan) of 23 years, and his 3 children: Sarah (23), Fanny (22) and Nathan (20) who all share his passion for travelling, photography, friends, movies, skiing, and each other.

We are all richer for having had the skill, knowledge and brilliance of Prof Ephraim (Freddy) Avni as a leader, teacher, friend and mentor. We (his extended family) applaud and congratulate him for his tireless dedication to paediatric radiology.

Dr C M Owens