

With deep grief, sorrow and a feeling of personal loss the European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians announces the departure of our dear President of Honor, Dr Elke Jaeger Roman R.I.P who suddenly, unexpectedly and tragically passed away yesterday in Berlin.

Many Nations and Institutions have Founding Fathers. We had a Founding Mother, and that was Elke.

A graduate of the Universities of Bonn and Munich, she trained initially on a grant at the Institute for Toxicology and Embryonic Pharmacology at the Free University of Berlin, then becoming an assistant doctor at the University Children's Hospital Berlin and a specialist in pediatric and adolescent medicine. She practiced for 8 months in Kabul, Afghanistan, then as a resident surgeon at Edenvale Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa and as a research assistant in Paediatric Pharmacology at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Then she returned to Germany and became a member of a paediatric primary care group practice in Berlin for more than 30 years while keeping special interest in her subspecialty training in pediatric rheumatology.

Her interest in medical training had a practical side when she regularly trained medical students and postgraduate pediatric doctors, but did not limit herself to practicum and took part in the developing curricula for pediatric training for General Practitioners in Berlin, and later – in order to promote Primary Care Paediatrics in Germany and Europe – became a member of the Executive Committee (EC) for the German professional organization (BVKJ) and the German delegate to UEMS - Paediatric Section - European Academy of Paediatrics.

Elke was behind the founding of ECPCP, was elected its first president and later became Honorary President for Life. She was a major contributor in the ECPCP Curriculum and EPAs documents. Parallel to her clinical work and institutional doing she was the coauthor of more than 20 professional articles including a recent editorial in Journal of Pediatrics about the consequences of the COVID pandemic published only a few days ago and she was the editor of a well distributed German Handbook for pediatric primary care. But for us all she was first and most the maternal figure with a sharp mind, a source of wisdom and knowledge and a huge heart, sometimes courageously and anti-authoritarian outspoken. We will always remember her and do our utmost to carry the flag she raised in Berlin in 2009 when ECPCP was founded.

She was constantly pushing us to be more active and felt we should do more, especially during the curfew imposed on us due to the COVID 19 Pandemics, and this will be her legacy to us all. She leaves a gigantic gap among her friends and colleagues as well as a mourning husband, a son and a sister.

Dr Shimon Barak
President ECPCP

5th April 2021