Honoring the Life of Maurice Staquet (1930-2013)

Written by: Ron Hays

Maurice Staquet received his MD from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a master’s degree in biostatistics from Columbia University. He was professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Maurice was the first editor-in-chief of the Quality of Life Research journal (published in February of 1992). The editorial for the initial issue set the tone for the International Society of Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL): “the journal hopes to promote an integrated approach to quality of life research that reflects both a high level of clinical relevance and scientific sophistication.” Dr. Staquet was instrumental in the birth of ISOQOL and hosted its inaugural annual conference in Brussels, Belgium on February 2, 1994. Maurice was also an editor (Staquet, Hays, & Fayers, 1998) of Quality of Life Assessment in Clinical Trials: Methods and Practice, published by Oxford University Press.

Prior to his pioneering work with ISOQOL, he directed the EORTC Coordinating Office at the Institut Jules Bordet, expanding it into the EORTC Data Center in 1974 (Duez et al., 2013). This center was the first of its kind in Europe, providing support for the design, conduct and analysis of EORTC clinical trials. He was also the founding father of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) to promote research about design and analysis of clinical research. Maurice hosted the first meeting in Brussels on May 2-3, 1979. In addition, he helped organize U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI)-EORTC Symposia and co-edited the EORTC Monograph Series about cancer treatment.