



Frank Clifford Rose

Obituary: Frank Clifford Rose [1926-2012]

Frank Clifford Rose died November 1, 2012. An important part of the history of the World Federation of Neurology has come to its end.

Frank has been a central figure in the activities of the WFN, from the first world congress of neurology in Brussels 1957. He was then a junior at the National Hospital. The Professor of Neuropathology, William Blackwood, was interested in muscle innervation, and advised Frank to go to Belgium to learn the methylene blue staining technique. The only World Congress which he missed, was Vienna 1965, because he had just been appointed to Charing Cross Hospital. Otherwise, he always participated at the WFN meetings.

Frank Clifford Rose was elected WFN Secretary-Treasurer General in 1989. John Walton had initiated a total re-organization and modernization of the WFN when he became the President. In 1990, Frank became the first Editor-in-Chief of *World Neurology* during the most constructive modernization phase in the history of the WFN. It lasted during Walton and Toole's Presidencies, and some of the last elements of the re-organization were first brought in place during Kimura's Presidency. Rose took care to involve the readers in the modernization process and was concerned that all WFN members were informed about the process.

The UK-based Charities Aid Foundation reviewed the committee structure and function of the WFN, and presented a comprehensive modification with a list of recommendations. These were thoroughly discussed in the central organization and published in *World Neurology* in order to have an open, democratic process. They were then discussed in the Council of Delegates in Buenos Aires during the World Congress of Neurology in 1997. Important front-page headings of *World Neurology* were "Reorganization of the Federation" (13/2) and "National Societies of the World Federation of Neurology Hold the Key to its Future" (13/3).

Frank was an efficient, trustworthy and hard-working officer. *World Neurology* was the sole force that united the whole of the WFN, since every member of the federation received a copy. Frank Clifford Rose established a WFN office in London. With the help of his wife Angela, he updated the 23,000 member database of the WFN.

Frank was interested in neurology and its organization. He had a lifelong interest in medical history and was a founding editor (1992) of the *Journal of the History of Neurosciences*. Dr. Macdonald Critchley had founded a WFN Research Group on the History of Neurology. Dr. Bill Bynum, who worked at the Wellcome Institute of Medicine, chaired the history of neurology group, and Rose and Bynum took the initiative for a Festschrift for Macdonald Critchley's 80th birthday in 1980. His activities, particularly in the field of headache, won him a well-deserved national and international reputation. He received the Harold Wolff Award twice in his career and, in 1986, the Distinguished Clinician Award of the American Association for the Study of Headache.

He was a central figure in the meetings of the WFN history of neurology section. He was also Founding Director of the Academic Unit of Neuroscience at Charing Cross and Imperial College Medical School, and edited, "Motor Neurone Disease" (1977), "Clinical Neuro-Immunology" (1979), and "Clinical Neuro-Epidemiology" (1980). Music was an important part of his many interests, and the last book he edited was "Neurology of Music" (2010). His last book was published in 2011: *The History of British Neurology*.

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