HIV World Loses Joep Lange, Early Outspoken Proponent of Triple ART

Joep Lange, former International AIDS Society President and a leading HIV researcher and humanitarian, died in the crash of Malaysian Airways flight 17, shot down over eastern Ukraine on 17 July.

Perhaps more than any single person in HIV research, Lange rallied support for triple antiretroviral therapy as the only way to move forward in the response to HIV. Speaking at the European AIDS Clinical Society meeting in Milan in 1994, when many considered antiretroviral therapy not to be a good option, Lange urged that only an array of drugs with different mechanisms could effectively combat the virus. He was right.

In the *Washington Post*, HIV scientist Daniel Kuritzkes called Lange “an extraordinary leader, scientist and humanitarian’ who, as a past president of the International AIDS Society and as a leading Dutch academic researcher, ‘fought ceaselessly for the dignity of all HIV-infected persons throughout the world.’”

When triple therapy reversed the course of the HIV epidemic, Lange turned his attention to the millions of underserved and untreated people with HIV throughout the world. At the time of his death, Lange was Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Global Health at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. He was Executive Director of the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development.

From 1992 to 1995, the period when he delivered his galvanizing triple-therapy address, Lange was Chief of Clinical Research and Drug Development at the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization. He served as IAS President from 2002 to 2004.

Joep Lange will be missed not only for his leadership in the AIDS field, but for his sardonic humor, effervescent wit, and love of humankind.

For the Washington Post article
www.washingtonpost.com/world/aids-researcher-joep-lange-confirmed-among-dead-in-malaysia-jet-shoot-down/2014/07/17/4869c6a2-0e2d-11e4-8c9a-923ecc0c7d23_story.html

For the Amsterdam Institute of Global Health and Development biography
aighd.org/people/joep-lange/