
FAREWELL TO PROF. DANIEL LEMOGOU, MD, PHD, FESC

Prof. Daniel Lemogou passed away on December 3, 2021, at the age of 58 years. He was a respected and renowned cardiologist in Belgium and in Cameroon until 25th October, when he did his last grand round at the Douala Laquintinie Hospital with bedside teaching of medical students. Unfortunately, soon after the “brilliant practitioner” started feeling some Covid-19 signs and symptoms and was placed on mechanical ventilation on October 28. He lost the battle against Covid-19, after a month of ultimate struggle.

Daniel Lemogou was born in 1962, in Fokoue, Menoua division, West region of Cameroon. He graduated in Medicine at the Yaounde University Health Center under the supervision of a world class expert in diabetes and endocrinology, Prof. Mbanya Jean Claude. He later moved to Belgium to continue his research and clinical training under the guidance of other worldwide famous cardiovascular experts including Prof. Van De Borne Philippe.

Daniel Lemogou was a great unifier and had an infinite love for his fellow human beings. He left no one indifferent throughout his wanderings, both in the medical, scientific and academic fields, and in the associative and humanitarian environment. He was passionate to win the battle against cardiovascular diseases that affect African populations. Prof. Lemogou’s ingenuity and originality enabled him to carry out leading scientific research, using innovative approaches to the epidemiology of hypertension in Africa and in African populations living in Europe.

In both Egypt and Cameroon, Prof. Lemogou assembled a group of young and bright medical students and residents (most of whom went on to brilliant academic and research careers in Cameroon or abroad) with whom he began to work on the mechanisms of cardiovascular diseases in black Africans. The results substantially expanded previous knowledge and gave Prof. Lemogou’s research work a highlight in the cardiovascular field, leading to a doctoral thesis entitled *Mechanisms of cardiovascular diseases in the Black African subject: would early arterial aging be a determinant?* He presented this thesis before the scientific and academic grand jury of

the Université Libre de Bruxelles on January 5, 2015, and obtained the prestigious title of Agrégé de Cardiologie from the ULB.

The aim of his research work was to determine the mechanisms of early stiffness of the large arteries in black Africans, a major consequence of arterial aging and a determinant of cardiovascular diseases. Ultimately, Prof. Lemogou’s work aimed to improve diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases in Sub Saharan African blacks. In 2003, Prof. Lemogou was the driving force behind the African Hypertension Guidelines (among the first to be published in Africa), entitled *Recommendations for prevention, diagnosis and management of hypertension and cardiovascular risk factors in sub-Saharan Africa*. This publication inspired several works including the *Newer Versus Older Antihypertensive Agents in African Hypertensive Patients (NOAAH)* clinical trial led by Prof. Lemogou and the *Roadmap to Achieve 25% Hypertension Control in Africa by 2025* led by Prof. Anastase Dzudie.

With a very original contribution to the understanding of CVDs in blacks, a hundred publications to his credit, and a hundred conferences given around the world, there is no doubt that with his holistic approach, Prof. Lemogou was a leading figure as a cardiologist, researcher and a visionary scientist in the field of cardiovascular diseases in Africa and globally.

In 2005, the Cameroon Heart Foundation (CamHeF) was initiated by Prof. Lemogou with the support of Prof. Anastase Dzudie. This foundation has become the symbol in the fight against cardiovascular diseases across Cameroon, with major healthy heart campaigns such as “The Week of the Heart”, “The Month of Women”, “The Osez-Sauvez Program”, and “The Caravan of the Sahel’ in the far north of Cameroon. In the same line, Prof. Lemogou supported by Prof. William Ngatchou and their partners from Belgium were instrumental in establishing of numerous partnerships between Cameroon Public Universities, the Erasmus Hospital and the ULB Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Lemogou served as a member of the board of the World Hypertension League and was Chair of the WHL Sub Saharan Africa regional office. He was also a member of the African Heart Network

(AHN), president of the Forum for Hypertension Control and Prevention in Africa (IFHA), member of the Cameroon Cardiac Society and the Pan African Society of Cardiology, founding father of the Circle of Menoua Nationals of Belgium (CRMB) and mentor to several young colleagues and students in non-medical related fields who have gone on to brilliant careers.

The passing of Prof. Lemogoum is a great loss for his family, the scientific world and those who knew him through his various actions. His scientific and medical contribution have been recognized and appreciated by his peers in Cameroon, in Africa and globally. Perpetuating the work of Prof. Lemogoum will make it possible to bring to life his memory. For those who have known him, Prof. Lemogoum will be remembered as a great scientist but also simply as a great man. Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences go to his wife and three children iLoïc, Steve, Danianne, and Fabrice as well as to his adopted son Ghislain Zobiyo. He will be extremely missed.

Anastase Dzudie^{1,2}, William Ngatchou^{3,4}, Norm R C Campbell^{5,6}

¹ Service of Internal Medicine and Subspecialties, Cardiology Unit, Douala General Hospital, Douala, Cameroon

² Clinical Research Education, Networking and Consultancy, Yaounde, Cameroon

³ Departments of Physiology and Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon

⁴ Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Douala, Cameroon

⁵ World Hypertension League,

⁶ Departments of Medicine, Physiology and Pharmacology, and Community Health Sciences, O'Brien Institute for Public Health, Libin Cardiovascular Institute, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Canada.