Obituary

Lykle Hogerzeil MB ChB Leiden, MD 1926–2011 – Knight of Dutch Household

Lykle Hogerzeil influenced many people in leprosy through his work in Nigeria, India, and SE Asia. He had a warm, affable manner, and his approach to leprosy was always patient focussed.

He was born in Arnhem, Holland, and studied medicine at Leiden University, qualifying in 1954. In 1955 he went to work as a missionary in Nigeria, having stipulated that he would do any type of work but leprosy work. However by 1958 he was working in Uzuakoli Hospital with Frank Davey, and he then spent most of his working life in leprosy work. In Nigeria he did important early work with Stanley Browne showing that Clofazimine was an effective antibacterial for *Mycobacterium leprae*. This was key work because Clofazimine was then to become part of the WHO approved Multi-drug regimen and has now been used for over 50 years as an anti-leprosy drug. He had a brief return to Holland where he obtained his MD in dermatology in 1964. He was then invited to work in India by Frank Davey who was working in Dichpalli. Here Lykle and Frank worked on developing effective drug combinations for treating leprosy. They also worked on studies on the transmission of leprosy, and worked with Rex Barton, an ENT surgeon, showing that the nasal mucosa was an important exit route for *M. leprae*. At that time the old leprosaria attracted many patients who came and stayed whilst taking treatment. Many then stayed in so-called leprosy villages. Lykle took a compassionate interest in the ex-patients living in these villages and promoted self care. He also initiated primary health care from Dichpalli as an early model of integrating leprosy and non-leprosy services. I visited Dichpalli as a volunteer in 1975, and seeing the combination of personal and scientific work there inspired me to make a career in tropical medicine and leprosy.

Lykle then moved to Singapore and was regional director for The Leprosy Mission for five years. During that time he travelled widely teaching and training staff in the region.

He retired to Ripon, North Yorkshire, where he became a stalwart cathedral guide. He is survived by his second wife Lis Hogerzeil whom he met at Dichpalli Hospital. She nursed him tirelessly during his final illnesses of multiple cerebrovascular events and dementia. His first wife, Connie, died in 1968. His contribution to leprosy work was recognised in Holland with the award of a Knighthood of the Dutch Royal Household. His memorial service in Ripon reflected the many strands of his life with photos and friends from Nigeria, Indian, Singapore and Yorkshire mingling to talk about what Lykle had done for them.

_Diana N.J. Lockwood_