

## IN MEMORIAM

# Mahar MARDJONO

## 1923 – 2002



On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2002, the Indonesian Medical Association, Indonesian Neurological Association and the Indonesia Society Against Epilepsy, lost one of their most illustrious members, Professor Mahar Mardjono.

Professor Mardjono was born on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1923 in Semarang, Central Java. He went to medical school in Jakarta in the early forties. Due to interruptions from the Second World War, the Japanese Occupation and War of Independence against the Dutch, he graduated as a medical doctor only in 1952.

During the War of Independence he was active with the student body that was instrumental in forcing the Indonesia leadership (Soekarno and Hatta) to proclaim the independence of Indonesia in August 17, 1945. As a freedom fighter, he was once captured in East Java.

After graduation, he went to the United States to study neurosciences and clinical neurology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington D.C. and at the University of California Medical Center. He was the first Indonesian receiving full training in modern neurology. He returned to Indonesia in 1955. In 1958, the Neurology Department at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta became an independent department and he was its first chairman. In 1963 he obtained a Ph.D. degree on the subject of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy.

He then became the Dean of the Medical Faculty and served for two terms (1973-1982) as Rector of the University of Indonesia. The latter office was during a difficult time, due to a militant students movement against what they viewed as a corrupt government.

Professor Mardjono was also active in the affairs of the medical profession. He has held office as President of the Indonesian Medical Association. He was one of the founding fathers of the Indonesian Psychiatric, Neurological and Neurosurgical Association in the late sixties, which in 1984 was reorganized to become separate Psychiatric, Neurological and Neurosurgical associations.

He was the first physician in Indonesia to have a deep interest in Epilepsy. He was the founding father of the Indonesia Society Against Epilepsy, which in the eighties became a member of the International League Against Epilepsy.

Professor Mardjono has held practically every position of importance in the Indonesia scientific community, including Head of the Consortium on Medical and Social Sciences, and was Chief Physician to two previous Indonesian Presidents. He received numerous awards from Indonesia and abroad in the field of education and science.

In all these contributions, he was fully supported by his wife, Sridjati Kangeaningsih, who presently heads the Indonesia Epilepsy Foundation.

With his passing, the Indonesian neurology community has lost a freedom fighter, a teacher, a scientist, a doctor, an administrator and a leader. Indeed, he has no equal in his achievement and statue in the Indonesian neurology community today.

Dede GUNAWAN  
Indonesia Society Against Epilepsy  
Indonesian Neurological Association