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Risk factors for long-term failure of orthopaedic medical devices: taking advantage of RSA as an early detection tool

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In memoriam

Edward Valstar (1970–2017)

In memoriam

Professor Edward Valstar died at the age of only 47 years on May 17, 2017. As stated in a touching tribute by his close colleagues and long-time friends, he had to battle an unfair fight against a “bunch of deteriorated pancreatic cells” (Rob Nelissen, Bart Kaptein, DirkJan Veeger, *Acta Orthopaedica* 2017, 88, 701-702).

Edward inspired many young academics at both the Leiden University Medical Center and the Delft University of Technology. His combined expertise in technology and health care led to his appointment as one of the first Medical Delta professors (i.e., being part of a select group of professors with a dual appointment at Leiden University Medical Center and Delft University of Technology). While working as an engineer within the field of medicine, he was able to connect clinic, technology and biology together. Given his quality in doing so, he successfully collaborated with many clinicians and scientists all around the world. One of the examples of yet another fruitful collaboration is his paper on RSA standardization (2005), which was written with Swedish orthopaedic surgeons who initially had opposing ideas on his scientific output. Only a few years later, he was one of the founding members of the International Radiostereometry Society and initiator of biennial RSA meetings, which further strengthened the RSA community and elevated RSA research to a next level.

Besides research, Edward was always interested in the personal lives of his peers and students. For that matter, he was one of the few professors that showed work can be done during working hours, while life can (and should) be lived with family and friends during evenings, weekends and holidays. During the first years of my PhD, Edward gave me the freedom to set my own path as I started my scientific career. Meanwhile, he pushed me to collaborate and build a successful bridge between Leiden and the research group of Sören, who was later gratefully added as a co-promotor. While finishing this dissertation, I realize that many more collaborations have been established within the RSA community; Edward is greatly missed, though his values and philosophy have evidently continued to live on.



Edward Valstar at TedX Delft: Joined at the Hip (a must see on YouTube).