

MARC GENTILINI

Marc Gentilini was born on July 31, 1929 in Compiègne, France. He attended high school at a Jesuit college in Reims and subsequently began his medical studies there. He continued his medical studies with an internship and a residency in internal medicine at several hospitals in Paris, while concurrently conducting research in parasitology. He performed his military service in Algeria (Hamada du Guir), French Sudan-Mali (Gao), and Senegal (Thies).

After serving as an Assistant in Paris hospitals, he was elected Professor in 1966 and was inducted into the Exotic Pathology Society in that same year.

At the Pitie-Salpetriere hospital, Marc Gentilini progressively took on the roles of **Professor of Parasitology, Public Health, and finally Infectious and Tropical Diseases**. This multidisciplinary background allowed Pr. Gentilini to become a founder of the first INSERM research unit in France dedicated to malaria and AIDS in Africa.

In 1988, faced with the growing AIDS epidemic Pr Gentilini and a group of other doctors created the **Pan African Organization against AIDS (OPALS)**; the goal of the organization being to provide medicine and care readily available in developed countries to HIV patients in developing countries. OPALS went on to build 12 ambulatory treatment centers dedicated to HIV+ patients in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Marc Gentilini was elected **President of the French Red Cross** in 1997, where he served for seven and a half years until December 2004. During his tenure there, he created and developed many international programs, together with OPALS.

Marc Gentilini was a member of the **Economic, Social, and Environmental Council** from 2002-2010. In 2006 he published a critique entitled "French Healthcare Cooperation with Developing Countries," for the council.

He is a former member of the **French Advisory Commission for Human Rights** and the **High Authority against Discrimination and for Equality**.

Gentilini served as President of the **Academy of Water** for 10 years from 2004-2014.

Pr. Marc Gentilini has been a member of the **Academy of Medicine** since 1991, and he presided over the body in 2008.