

Editorial

Hans E. Junginger: a life in pharmaceutics

This issue of the journal is a Festschrift for Hans Junginger on the occasion of his 60th birthday, actually celebrated on January 10th 2003 in Marburg with his family and a large number of friends, both personal and scientific from around the world. There will be a symposium held appropriately in Leiden in November 2003 to mark his impending retirement from his chair at the University. This issue of *IJP* then celebrates both birthday and his contributions to pharmaceutics during his occupancy of the chair of Pharmaceutics and Headship of the Division of Pharmaceutical Technology at the Leiden/Amsterdam Center for Drug Research of the University of Leiden.

Professor Junginger was appointed to this position in 1981, where he has made it his own and certainly distinctive. The chair was initially the chair of “pharmaceutical technology and dispensing”, appropriate for a pharmacist like Hans in a School of Pharmacy as it then was. He graduated as a pharmacist from the University of Munich and then completed his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Saarbrücken in 1971. His Habilitation Thesis was completed at another institution—the Technical University of Braunschweig some 6 years later.

The professional pharmacy element disappeared from the title of his chair when Leiden ceased to be a School of Pharmacy and the School became the Center for Biopharmaceutical Sciences, a research institute concentrating on postgraduate work and an undergraduate degree programme in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical sciences. Hans restricted his dispensing then to the dispensing of good advice to his students, his post-graduates, his colleagues and audiences world-wide. Hans has been an inveterate traveller. He has been invited to speak throughout



Hans E. Junginger

the world and has been passionate about spreading the word about his research area. Often first to the microphone at question time, he could be relied on to stimulate debate and to make authors think. His contributions to the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique (FIP) have comprised not only of his role as its Scientific Secretary but in general promoting pharmacy and pharmaceutical science to the less privileged. One certain example of the latter is his involvement in workshops which have taken biopharmaceutical concepts to developing countries so that the latest thinking on the scientific evaluation of medicines can be readily appreciated. This is pharmaceutical science in action: how experience in basic research can project itself into improved quality of medicinal products and ultimately the health of nations.

Hans has been honoured by the University of Ghent with an honorary doctorate in 1995. He has been President of prestigious societies: APV (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pharmazeutische Verfahrenstechnik) from 1986 to 1990, the international Controlled Release Society in 1994–1995 and of the Dutch Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences (NVFW). His contributions have been felt in the world of scientific publishing, as editor and author. Hans was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the then newly established *European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* associated with EUPHPS. He has served on the editorial boards of *Pharmaceutical Research*, *Journal of Controlled Release*, *STP Pharma Sciences*, *Deutsche Apotheker Zeitung* and this journal amongst many others, a reflection of his broad knowledge, interests and expertise. He is the author and co-author of more than 280 publications in international journals, he has co-authored three books and contributed some 25 chapters to books. He has

guided more than 30 Ph.D. candidates through their research and into the wider world. Many postdoctoral fellows have sought out his laboratory in Leiden to carry out research into the always topical and fascinating topics he researched in drug delivery and targeting.

Hans will be moving back to Germany after his very active sojourn in The Netherlands to be with Bärbel, but few of us can imagine him being inactive professionally, having over many years earned the unofficial title of the Flying Dutchman and benefactor of KLM through his indefatigable scientific travels. His many friends and associates throughout the world wish him well when the time comes early in 2004 to retire. To wish him happy birthday we dedicate this issue of *IJP* to him.

Alexander T. Florence
Editor-in-Chief
Europe, Middle East and Africa