

LAUDATIO of J.J.C. (Hans) Scheffer

As rule of the GA Honorary members shall consist of individuals who have rendered special service either to medicinal plant research or to the Society. Their nomination follows proposal by at least five members and approval by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors of the Society. A document shall be issued, signed by the President, certifying the appointment as an Honorary Member.

As President of the GA it is my pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors decided to give the Honorary Membership to Prof. Hans Scheffer.

Dr Scheffer, born 1947, studied pharmacy at Leiden University and qualified as a pharmacist in 1973, following his graduation, with a specialization in pharmacognosy, in 1972. He obtained his Ph.D. degree at the same university in 1978. His promotor was Prof. Dr Anders Baerheim Svendsen.

He was appointed faculty member at the Institute of Pharmacy of Leiden University in September 1973, and senior faculty member in January 1981. He worked as a post-doc at the University of Helsinki, in the Division of Pharmacognosy (head Prof. Dr Max von Schantz), from September 1982 until March 1983.

Dr Scheffer was associate professor at the Center for Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPS) of Leiden University, from its start in September 1984, the Center is part of the research institute LACDR (Leiden/Amsterdam Center for Drug Research).

In addition, he was active as professor of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Science (part-time) at the Agricultural University of Wageningen, from September 1985 until September 2003.

He supervised Ph.D. students, some of which came to Leiden from Ruanda, Nigeria, Brazil, Thailand and Indonesia, respectively.

From April 2002 until July 2007, he acted as Director of Education of the undergraduate programme of the Center for BPS, too.

Dr Scheffer is author and co-author of about 175 publications in refereed journals.

These papers mainly deal with the analysis of essential oils, the screening of such oils for antimicrobial activities, the analysis of phthalides, steroidal alkaloids, the volatile compounds and bitter acids from hops as well as that of volatiles from cell cultures.

He has also been editor, together with A. Baerheim Svendsen, of the book 'Essential Oils and Aromatic Plants.

Dr Scheffer was member of the editorial boards of the Dutch pharmaceutical weekly journal 'Pharmaceutisch Weekblad' and of 'Acta Pharmaceutica Fennica', In addition, he was acting as associate editor of 'Flavour and Fragrance Journal', from January 1989 until January 2002. Thereafter he was member of the Editorial Advisory Board of this journal until January 2008.

He is member of the board of the Dutch Society for Medicinal Plant Research, since 1978, and its president since 1990.

Dr Scheffer has been member of expert group 13A (Phytochemistry) of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission from November 1998 until June 2007.

Dr Scheffer **became member of the 'Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung' (Society for Medicinal Plant Research)** in 1976, and member of its Board of Directors (BoD) in 1988, acted as Vice-President of the GA (from January 1990 through December 1997) and as its President (from January 1998 through December 2001), and thereafter he was again member of its BoD (2002-2006). During four years (1984-1987) he was editor of the GA Newsletter.

Dr Scheffer was involved in the organization of several scientific meetings, among which are the 35th annual GA Congress in 1987, the 5th Joint Meeting in Amsterdam in 1999, some of the International Symposia on Essential Oils (ISEO).

GA is awarding Hans Scheffer the Honorary Membership in recognition of his long and intense engagement for the aims of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA).

Brigitte Kopp
GA President