

LAUDATIO ARNOLD J. VLIETINCK

Arnold Vlietinck obtained his pharmacist's degree in 1964 at the University of Leuven, and his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the same university in 1968.

He obtained the position of research assistant as a Fulbright-Hays, NATO- and WHO-fellow at the School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA (1973-1974).

In 1974 he became professor of pharmacognosy and phytochemistry at the newly founded University of Antwerp. He started the different research lines that have turned the laboratory into a highly performing research unit on national and international level - his research profile is broad covering the topics of plant extracts, flavonoids, antivirals, some alkaloids, complement inactivator proteins, saponins, antimalarials and antidiabetic and anti-tumoral substances. In summary, he was very successful in the areas of structure elucidation, biological activity, quality of herbal medicinal products, and their regulation. A lot of his valuable papers together with his group he has published in our journal *Planta Medica*. - Prof. Vlietinck is author or co-author of more than 230 scientific publications in international scientific journals, and of an important number of chapters in books, and he is member of the Editorial Board of important journals in the field of pharmacognosy and natural products.

The multitudinous lists of all his awards, memberships in Professional Societies, his activities in teaching, his editorial and advisory activities and scientific and organisational activities reflect his wide and excellent experience in pharmacognosy and phytochemistry.

Besides his daily academic work, he held executive positions in the national

and European Pharmacopoeia committees and other official commissions on European level where regulations and legislation on herbal medicinal products have been and still are being discussed and prepared, which he strongly influenced by his broad and well-founded knowledge

More than for any other reason, the important role Prof. Vlietinck has played in the field of quality, safety and efficacy of herbal medicinal products on European and even global level make him a valuable candidate for the honorary membership of GA, for which he was highly engaged in the agendas not only as a common member but also within the BoD and by arranging “his” Permanent Committee. He also organized the 1984 GA meeting in Antwerp, which is in best commemoration of all who had attended it. As far as I know Arnold, he was always a constructive speaker in many discussions about the daily task and the future of GA, its journal *Planta Medica* as well as the organization of annual meetings.

The Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) is awarding the Honorary Membership to Prof. Dr. Arnold J. Vlietinck in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to medicinal plant research, especially in the areas of structure elucidation, biological activity, quality of herbal medicinal products and their regulation, and his long and intense engagement for the aims of our society.

Brigitte Kopp

President of GA