OBITUARY

In memoriam

It is with great sorrow we would like to inform you that the Hevesy Medal Laureate Professor Dr. Jeroen J. M. De Goeij passed away on 2005 November 4, after a short illness. Radiochemists around the world have lost one of their pioneers, a salient personality, and a widely appreciated colleague. Jeroen belonged to the group of scientists who started demonstrating the full powers of radiochemical activation analysis with his innovative contribution of fully automated group-separations methods. He was also one of the first scientists to show the antagonistic toxic behavior of selenium and mercury in sea mammals.

Professor De Goeij started his scientific career* in 1965 at the Reactor Institute (later renamed to Interuniversity Reactor Institute, IRI) in Delft, The Netherlands. Until his retirement from IRI in 2002 he made a significant contribution to the education and research in radiochemistry in The Netherlands. In 1972 he was appointed as a lecturer and in 1980 promoted to a Full Professor of Radiochemistry at both the Delft University of Technology and Eindhoven University of Technology. This joint appointment provided him with the opportunity to bridge radiochemical research using a nuclear research reactor and a cyclotron, and he found the synergy in these disciplines to anchor and promote radiochemistry at the national level. In Delft, his scientific efforts concentrated on (radio)chemical neutron activation analysis and radiotracer methodology; in Eindhoven he stimulated research on cyclotron produced radionuclides and radiolabeling.

Jeroen set high standards to his own scientific research as well as that of his students and staff. Moreover, he was gifted with encyclopedian knowledge of the literature in his discipline, which was of great benefit to all of us. He critically analyzed every new radiochemistry project that his fellow staff members or students wanted to pursue, asked pin-pointed questions to make sure that the person understood the breadth and depth of the project, and then supported it enthusiastically leading to the successful completion of high-quality research. He constantly demanded accurate formulation of spoken as well as written words for himself and people around him. He tediously reviewed (and sometimes completely rewrote) many manuscripts from his students and staff to better interpret experimental results. He was highly appreciated as a reviewer and editor for several scientific journals. His interest in correct formulation led him to one of his last scientific tasks where he was invited by IUPAC, as an IUPAC Fellow, to revise nomenclature in radiochemistry.

* An extensive description of Jeroen De Goeij’s scientific career was recently published in the frame of the Hevesy Medal, see J. Radioanal. Nucl. Chem., 263 (2005) 11–12.
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Professor Jeroen DE GOEIJ was an active member of scientific committees of several international conferences such as MTAA, NAMLS, and NRC. He also served as an IAEA consultant on trace elements in biological systems because of his broad expertise. He received many awards for his outstanding contribution to the academic world in general and radiochemistry in particular. These included the Conmemorative Medal of the Charles University, Prague (1993), the Netherlands’ Royal Distinction “Knight in the order of the Dutch Lion” (2002), and the Hevesy Medal Award (2003). Jeroen also found time to make contributions to many social activities dealing with education in the community.

He retired from the Delft University in 2002. Although he was still involved in editing the final versions of dissertations of his PhD students during the last few months of his life, he increasingly tried to make time available for his family and especially his grandchildren. Our thoughts are with his wife Mirjam, his children Laetitia and Huib and their families, and his grandchildren. We will dearly miss him.

PETER BODE