

Nederlandse Vereniging voor

KLINISCHE FARMACOLOGIE
en Biofarmacie

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EACPT
Dr. Arantxa Sancho, Secretary

KK/SdL/202101

9 February 2021

Re: Lifetime Achievement Award EACPT

Dear Mrs. Sancho,

With this letter we would like to endorse the nomination of Prof. Dr. Meindert Danhof for the *EACPT Prize 2021 for Lifetime Achievement in Clinical Pharmacology*. Professor Danhof has been selected by the Board of the Dutch Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmacy as an outstanding candidate for this award, given his life-long commitment and exceptional achievements in the field of clinical pharmacology.

Professor Danhof studied Pharmacy at Groningen University and received his PharmD degree in 1976. In 1980, he obtained his PhD from Leiden University under the direction of Professor Douwe D. Breimer. From 1980-1983, he was a post-doctoral research fellow with Professor Gerhard Levy, in the Department of Pharmaceutics, State University of New York at Buffalo, USA. He received further specialist training in clinical pharmacology as a visiting scientist at Stanford University Medical Center between 1983-1986. Shortly after his postdoctoral training, he joined the University of Leiden, where he now is Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology in both the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medicine. He was Scientific Director of the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research between 2005 and 2013.

Professor Danhof's research interest, starting with his foundational postdoctoral research up to now, is in the development of new theoretical concepts in pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic (PK-PD) modelling. His seminal contributions, documented in more than 490 publications and 27 book chapters, encompass key developments such as mechanism-based PK-PD models, which incorporate biologically realistic considerations such as understanding of target site distribution and receptor theory. Such biological realism coupled with mathematical and computer simulation can provide modelling constructs with improved properties for model-based extrapolation and prediction.

Such models go well beyond standard exposure-response empirical relationships, by incorporating characteristics of the disease system that can result in a very insightful combination of pharmacology and biology, what is currently termed “systems pharmacology”. Such advances owe an enormous debt to the pioneering work by Professor Danhof.

Besides being a captivating speaker at many conferences himself, Meindert Danhof has an active interest in the dissemination of PKPD modelling concepts through the organization of international conferences, workshops and courses.

He is the Founder and Chairman of the series of international conferences ‘Measurement and Kinetics of In Vivo Drug Effects’ in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands which he organised 7 times (every 4 years) since 1990, and which will continue as Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Congress in Leiden.

These symposia consistently managed to attract the top scientists in the field to present their latest research results and new concepts in PK-PD and systems pharmacology, and are probably the most influential meeting in the field of mechanistic PK-PD.

In 2007, he was the founder of the ‘TI Pharma mechanism based PKPD modelling platform’, whose stated purpose is the development of a mechanism-based PKPD model library and database for application in drug discovery and development. Through his leadership, this Dutch Platform developed as a public—private partnership being a collaborative effort of 4 academic institutions in the Netherlands and 8 leading global pharmaceutical industries. In this platform 12 PhD students and 11 postdocs were trained. Unique to this platform is the availability of shared databases on disease and drug related parameters.

In 1998, he has established LAP&P Consultants BV, an established contract research organization which currently provides a professional infrastructure for consultancy services in advanced PK-PD modelling to the pharmaceutical industry, including actual data-analysis and clinical trial simulation.

Professor Danhof has also been active in professional societies. He is Past President of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Sciences (EUFEPS) and President of the 6 FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation) Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress (PSWC) on May 21-24 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Meindert Danhof has been a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS) since 1998. In 1993, he received the Organon Research Prize for his contributions to research on PKPD relationships and in 1997 the ‘FIP Pharmaceutical Scientist of the Year Award’ at the 57th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Vancouver, Canada. In 2004, he received the Rawls Palmer Award at the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Miami, USA, and in 2006 he received the ‘New Safe Medicines Faster Award’ of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 2009 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP) and in 2010 he received the Research Achievement Award in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS).

In 2017, Meindert received the FIP Presidential Citation Award in Stockholm, Sweden 2019, in 2018 the EUFEPS Presidential Distinction Award from European Federation of Pharmaceutical Sciences (EUFEPS) in Athens, Greece and in 2019 the Høst Madsen Medal for his pioneering work in systems pharmacology at the FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Abu Dhabi.

According to the Dutch Society of Clinical Pharmacology, Meindert Danhof has, as a Honorary full member Clinical Pharmacologist in the Netherlands since 1998, been an inspirational clinical scientist and a true role model in terms of professional and personal service, teaching for many of us current clinical pharmacologists. He has established his mentoring legacy with the supervision of 65 PhD graduate students and 21 postdoctoral fellows. Many of these trainees have gone on to prominent clinical pharmacology positions in academia, industry, and regulatory agencies. In fact, the current Editor-in-Chief of CPT was a trainee of Dr. Danhof, similar for the current CEO of the Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board. Therefore, in addition to his many research accomplishments and numerous awards, Dr. Danhof has in our opinion shown genuine leadership in clinical pharmacology. Regarding invitations from the EACPT, Professor Danhof gave two plenary invited lectures at the EACPT (2003 Istanbul and 2011 Budapest). Altogether, he has inspired many young colleagues with both his scientific work and training on pharmacokinetics and PKPD modelling. His work has formed the very base of Clinical Pharmacology, and has shaped the profession of Clinical Pharmacology.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the Board of the Dutch Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmacy



Prof. Dr. C. Kramers,
Chairman NVKFB



Prof. Dr. T. van Gelder,
Former Chairman NVKFB