

LAUDATIO MARIAN HORZINEK

Maurice Pensaert

The choice to nominate Prof. Marian Horzinek for the Sarton Memorial Medal was unanimously made by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and it is a pleasure for me as collega proximus to introduce him.

Marian Horzinek was born in Katowice, Poland in 1936. He received his high school education in Karlsruhe, Germany and started his university studies in the Veterinary Faculty of the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen (Germany) in 1956. In 1958, he moved to the Veterinary School of Hannover where he obtained the diploma of Veterinarian in 1961 and the degree of Dr. in Veterinary Medicine in 1962. In 1962, he started his research career as a fellow of the German Research Council in the Department of Virology of the Public Health Laboratory in Hannover (1962-1964), thereafter he continued as a research scientist at the Veterinary School in Hannover (1964-1967) and next as principal scientific officer at the Federal Institute for Animal Virus Diseases in Tübingen. He obtained his Ph D. in 1970. It can be observed that already early in his career, Prof. Horzinek realised the need for mobility as a scientist, because he spend one year as visiting scientist in Venezuela. After obtaining his Ph D, he moved to the Netherlands where he became full professor of Virology and Virus diseases in 1971 at the Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht University.

During all these years and until his retirement in 2000, he was head of the Virology Unit but also accepted and successfully executed different responsibilities such as Chairman of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology and Director of the Institute of Veterinary Research and of the Graduate School of Animal Health at the Utrecht University.

It would take too much time and space to list all the Committees and Councils where he has functioned (and still functions) as a member or chairman but it is clear from this list that his contributions to science and research are world-wide appreciated. To strengthen this, it should be mentioned that he was visiting professor at Hannover, courtesy professor at Cornell University in New York, and clinical professor of virology at the University of California in Davis, California.

Professor Horzinek has not only shown much diversity as a scientist, as a researcher, as a lecturer but also as an individual. He is always nice company to spend time with. He had the ability to conduct high quality research, to write excellent scientific papers as well in high rated virology journals but also in more popular veterinary publications. Even now, as emeritus professor, he is editor in chief of "Veterinary Sciences tomorrow", a highly appreciated on-line current awareness journal.

For all his scientific achievements, he received two titles of Doctor honoris causa : one at Ghent University and one at the University of Hannover.

Marian Horzinek is a true "universal person" who has carried his knowledge, his experience, his creativity and his wisdom all over the world. He is very apt to do that because he speaks fluently 6 languages and can read an additional 6. All this has helped him to see things from a distance and to acquire a valuable and wise judgement about the future but also about the past. His experience in virology together with his philosophical attitude and his splendid ability to write and communicate, have brought him here today as a Sarton Memorial nominee.

Not only is he editor or author of different textbooks but he also has written a book on "100 years of Virology".

Because of his expertise and particularly because of his extraordinary personality, the Veterinary Faculty of Ghent and the Sarton Committee are happy that Prof. Horzinek has accepted the medal nomination. George Sarton, the Father of the history of science would be

very proud if he could listen to Prof. Horzinek, who will address us today on "The history of animal virology".