BIOGRAPHY: DR. B.C. JANSEN

Name: Jansen, Berend Cornelis (Ben)

Date and place of birth: 12 August 1921, Middelburg (Cape), South Africa.

Date and place of death: 13 July 1987, PRETORIA, South Africa.

Main Functions:
- Bacteriologist/Researcher
- Director of the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort
- Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort
- Chief Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry

Parents:
- Father: Berend Cornelis Jansen, watchmaker and jeweler
- Mother: Guurtje Zwart

Spouse:
- 1. Marie Joyce de Jong
- 2. Ellen Magdalene O'Brian

Year of marriage:
- 1948
- 1983

Number of children:
- 4 (3 sons, 1 daughter)
- none

Education:
- Matriculation: High School Cradock, 1939
- BVSc. (cum laude), University of Pretoria, 1944
- DVS. (cum laude), University of Pretoria, 1960
- DSc. Potchefstroom University, 1966
- PhD. University of Stellenbosch, 1971

Career:
- 1945-1949: Private practice, Johannesburg
- 1949-1960: Researcher, Bacteriology Division, VRI, Onderstepoort
- 1961-1968: Director, Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Onderstepoort
- 1968-1978: Chief Director, Department of Agriculture, responsible for Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry.
- 1963-1973: Professor of Infectious Diseases and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria
- 1978-1987: Chief Researcher of the South African Woolboard at the VRI
  - In 1976 he was appointed as honorary professor and in 1980 in the new chair for Small Stock Diseases
1961-1987 : Chairman of the Veterinary Council of South Africa. This is the statutory body controlling the veterinary profession in S.A.

1975-1978 : Vice-President of the World Veterinary Association

1961-1978 : Councilor of the S.A. Veterinary Association

During this period he also served on the executive committee of the Medical Research Council, the Committee for Biological Sciences of the Atomic Energy Corporation and the Scientific Advisory Council of the Prime Minister.

Contributions:

Dr. Jansen was a dedicated researcher specializing in the field of animal diseases caused by micro-organisms of the *Clostridium* group such as botulism, enterotoxaemia, blackquarter and tetanus. His research on the antigenic reactions of the toxins produced by these organisms and the taxonomic as well as immunological implications thereof attracted worldwide attention. The application of this knowledge to the development of effective vaccines to control these diseases was his most important contribution to veterinary science. His outstanding ability as leader and administrator is illustrated by his early appointment as Director of the VRI, followed by his promotion to the senior post of Chief Director in the Department of Agriculture. In this position his important contribution was recognized by his promotion to a personal scale equivalent to that of the head of the Department.

During his long academic career as Dean of the Veterinary Faculty he was highly regarded both as teacher and as administrator and for his ability to inspire his students. His scientific standing is also reflected by his active participation in a wide variety of scientific organizations and committees and by the numerous awards he received.

Homages and distinctions:

- 1956 : Nuffield Fellowship for Research in Biological Sciences
- 1975 : Havenga Prize, S.A.Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns
- 1980 : Gold Medal of the Medical Research Council
- 1983 : Gold Medal of the S.A.Veterinary Society
- 1986 : Gold Medal of the S.A. Society for Microbiology
- Gold Medal of the Claude Harris Leon and Percy Fox Foundation
- 1987 : Golden Ram award of the S.A.Wool Board
- Honorary Doctorate, Potchefstroom University for CHE

Publications:

No list has been published of his 43 scientific publications but the majority can be found in the PubMed and WinSPIRS databases. Representative papers reflecting his interest in Clostridia and infertility in rams are the following:


References