

EDITORIAL

OBITUARY

Prof. Dr. Jan Karlsen
1941-2019



Prof. Karlsen was born on September 2, 1941 in Norway. He has led a successful career throughout in life as a pharmacist after his graduation from the University of Oslo in 1964. He did his PhD in Pharmacy /Analytical Chemistry on the subject gas chromatography of lower terpenes (*A Study of the Lower Terpenes in Plants by Means of Gas Liquid Chromatography*) at Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden, the Netherlands in 1970. Then, he worked as Assistant Professor first in the Department of Pharmacognosy at Rijkuniversiteit te Leiden between 1968 and 1973, and at the Department of Pharmaceutics in the University of Oslo between 1973 and 1988. He was promoted to professorship and worked as a professor at the Department of Pharmaceutics of the University of Oslo (1988-2012). He served as Dean of

the Faculty of Pharmacy in University of Oslo between the periods 1979-1983, 1986-1989 and 2002-2004. He also served as Head of the Department of Pharmaceutics between 1986-1990. Before his demise on March 21, 2019, he worked as Professor emeritus at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Oslo (2012-2019). Prof. Karlsen served as Norwegian delegate in the European Pharmacopoeia Commission in Strasbourg between 1980 and 2010. Between 1979 and 2006, he worked as Senior Technical Advisor to WHO, UNIDO and UNESCO on Drug Development, Natural Products, Drug Quality Control. He also served as Senior Technical Advisor to NORAD on Drug Quality Control between 1986 and 1990. He worked in countries like China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Turkey, Syria, Malaysia and Thailand in technical and scientific missions for the United Nations. Between 1975 and 2016, he served as Technical Consultant to Pharmaceutical, Cosmetic and Food Industries. He issued patents between 1990 and 2016 on drug formulation. He was an author and co-author of more than 300 scientific papers/publications.

As a Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmaceutics, Jan Karlsen had, through the years, built up a modern laboratory for drug research and development at the University of Oslo. He was declared as qualified professor in three different scientific fields: pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical analysis and pharmaceutics. He has been the supervisor of a great many students and Ph.D. candidates, and many have achieved important positions in the academia as well as in the pharmaceutical industry. Jan Karlsen has built a world-wide scientific network and he had many national and international collaborators.

Jan Karlsen has been chairman of the board of the Norwegian Museum of Pharmacy, and he was member of several such historical organizations in Europe. One of his interests was the use of drugs through the centuries from 800 till 1800 and the relations between European medicine and traditions in India. He has been to famous libraries in monasteries in Europe and has had several periods of research in the Library of the Vatican. Until his demise, he had been busy building up a library of antique books in the field of pharmacy for the Pharmacy Museum in Norway. Jan Karlsen has been to many conferences through the years and has given a great number of lectures.

Information about Jan Karlsen's work for the ISEO (International Symposium on Essential Oils) can be found in the article he had written for the 50th anniversary, published in the open-access ISEO journal Natural

Volatiles and Essential Oils (NVEO) (<https://dergipark.org.tr/nveo/issue/46268/581291>). The years in Leiden from 1965 to 1973 in cooperation with Professor Anders Baerheim Svendsen were essential and laid the foundation of his later scientific career.



ISEO meant very much to him, not only the science involved and the development of the different subjects, but the people he met there – his old friends, and also the younger generation of scientists, of whom he was most impressed and proud.



Among Prof. Karlsen's scientific interests were pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical technology, essential oils, chromatographic methods, phytochemistry, photoactive substances, formulation of gel preparations and history of pharmacy. He has also helped to popularize scientific topics such as fragrances and medieval medicine.

Jan Karlsen is survived by his wife Inger, their two daughters and grandchildren.

Prof. Dr. Kemal Hüsnü Can Başer
Editor-in-Chief, NVEO