

Obituary

Laurens L.M. van Deenen

(1928–1994)

With a feeling of great sadness, we have to inform you that, after a short illness, Professor Laurens L.M. van Deenen passed away on 4 September 1994, at the age of sixty-six. The merits and contributions of Professor van Deenen in the fields of biochemistry in general and lipids and biomembranes in particular are well known to our readers. During his outstanding career he was the illustrious recipient of many awards, honorary memberships and distinctions.

Of his many contributions to science, those to *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* are here particularly worthy of mention. Professor van Deenen joined the Editorial Advisory Board of BBA in 1962 and became one of the Managing Editors in 1964. In this function he was able to contribute with great skill and dedication during the ensuing 30 years to the growth and success of BBA.

In 1972, Professor van Deenen initiated the publication of invited review articles on Biomembranes, appearing in an independent section of BBA. This section has its own Editorial Board, on which Professor van Deenen served as Managing Editor. In 1983 he succeeded Professor Slater as Chairman of the Board of Managing Editors of BBA, a position he held for the ensuing six years. During this period, the publication of short reviews in all sections of BBA was initiated and under his guidance a special Celebration Volume 1000 appeared, comprising reflections on the developments in the areas of biochemistry which had been covered in the first volumes of the journal.

After his retirement from active academia in 1993, Professor van Deenen became an Honorary Managing Editor of BBA and continued to edit reviews for the Lipids and Biomembranes sections of the journal until this summer. We shall miss him enormously and we shall always remember Laurens as a gifted manager and eminent scientist, but above all as a fine colleague and friend, endowed with an admirable and charming personality.

The Managing Editors of BBA
September, 1994