

patients. By virtue of perseverance and confidence, success became a habit. He possessed a great capacity for work and a universal interest in matters of science, history, philosophy, languages and art. He played the piano well. In summary, apart from being a great scientist, he was a man for many seasons, a humanist and Renaissance man.

Paul Janssen will also be remembered by those who have accompanied him on his scientific Odyssey for his unique concept of organizing research, or rather for his peculiar way of not organizing what should be left to emerge and flourish on its own accord. From the beginning his research laboratory was centered around competent people. Rather than have a pyramidal reporting system and division of work into fixed processes, he preferred a flat and organic structure. Activities within the laboratory depended strongly on the presence or arrival of individuals. He gave maximal freedom to those he trusted for their competence and loyalty to the common goal, which was to discover new drugs for important diseases within their field of expertise. He expected his

collaborators to constantly think of interesting plans and ideas. The best part of his working day was spent in discussions with his collaborators, be they key scientists or laboratory technicians. Invariably his first question was "What's new?" He constantly scanned the scientific literature for articles that might be of interest for one or the other of his collaborators, who then were expected to review and discuss the subjects with him. As a rule, intellectual authority was severely rejected. Nothing was to be assumed and critical questioning was a continuous exercise. His scientific method could be termed as Socratic. The purpose of discussion and criticism always was to learn, never to persuade or to judge. His constant concern was to find out what was credible and what was valuable, doing away with everything that appeared unfounded or useless. Dr. Paul liked to think of his own role in the laboratory as that of the conductor of an orchestra. He strongly believed that professional and competent players need only a minimum of direction and coordination in order to achieve a harmonious and effective interplay.

Paul Janssen's concept of organizing drug design around competent people and critical questioning has resulted over a period of 50 years into an incredible wealth of new medicines. Many of them have revolutionized medical practice. We need only think of fentanyl and sufentanil in analgesia, haloperidol and risperidone in psychiatry, levamisole and mebendazole against parasitosis, miconazole and itraconazole in mycoses, diphenoxylate and loperamide for the treatment of diarrhoea, the gastroprokinetic domperidone, the antihistaminic astemizole, and many others. After retiring from his official functions and until the last moment of his life, Paul Janssen continued doing research at his Center for Molecular Design. Here with a small and dedicated staff and with the help of reputed scientists from all corners of the world he designed new drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the fruit of his work in the form of essential medicines that are so dearly needed to combat the worst scourge of our time. There is no better way to honor his memory than to continue and finish the voyage that he undertook.

Erratum

In the 1st April 2004 issue of *Drug Discovery Today* (Vol. 9, No. 7, p. 298), in the article entitled *New rotavirus vaccine could be licensed this year*, it was incorrectly stated that rotaviruses are protozoan parasites. The first subheading should have been *RNA viruses* and the subsequent text should have read: 'Rotaviruses are common RNA viruses that cause potentially fatal diarrhoeal illness in children.'

The Editorial team would like to apologize for any confusion that this might have caused.

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