

Obituary - Jan J. Weening



On the 31st of January, 2022 Jan J. Weening passed away unexpectedly, at the age of 71. Jan has been of great significance for the global nephrology and pathology communities.

Trained in the Dutch city of Groningen by prof. Hoedemaeker, he accepted his first full professorship in immunopathology at Groningen University in 1988. Three years later, he became head of the department of pathology in the Academic Medical Center (AMC) in Amsterdam, under challenging circumstances. Under his proficient leadership, the department flourished and rose to national significance. Being an exceptionally inspiring teacher and mentor, Jan trained numerous pathologists and supervised more than 25 PhD students.

For many years, Jan was chairman of the nationwide Netherlands pathology training council. He held academic positions in Harvard, Leiden, Nijmegen and Rotterdam and served the Dutch Kidney Foundation in a variety of advisory functions.

He served the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), first as secretary-general, and from 2003–2005 as president. He was the first pathologist to hold this position. Throughout his presidency, he stressed the vital importance of fundamental science at a time when funding agencies tended to drift away from investing in science and education. Also, he strove to intensify the ISN's global mission to advance the field of nephrology, especially in underserved areas. Scientifically, he focused on glomerulonephritis and led the design of the 2003 ISN/RPS lupus nephritis classification, which quickly was adopted as the global diagnostic standard. He co-authored more than 200 scientific publications.

Jan initiated the first edition of the European Renal Pathology Course in 2006, with – a novelty back then - fully digitized biopsy slides. The course has been running ever since, and has attracted hundreds of pathologists and nephrologists from all over the world.

Apart from being an excellent pathologist, leader and teacher, Jan had a broad and profound interest in the sweeter aspects of life, including the arts, literature and sports. He had a special interest in history. Indeed, after his retirement he published a well-regarded novel on Dutch political history, and he made plans to write a second book on the Dutch foundations of the greater New York area. Jan Weening will be remembered as an amiable and talented person, a loyal friend and a valued colleague. He was involved and caring, a gentleman, an artist of life. Jan leaves behind his wife Susan, three children and seven grandchildren. He donated his kidneys for transplantation.

Sandrine Florquin - Jan Aten - Joris Roelofs