

## Van het Algemeen Bestuur

### Ere-doctoraat Prof. dr I. van der Waal

Op zaterdag 5 november is in een academische zitting Prof. dr I. van der Waal een ere-doctoraat toegekend door de Semmelweis University of Medicine in Budapest, Hongarije. Voor het Bestuur en de Redactie van het Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Tandheelkunde vormt deze gebeurtenis de aanleiding om speciaal aandacht te schenken aan de vele verdiensten van onze hoofdredacteur. Degenen die hem kennen, weten dat hij in stilte veel werk verzet binnen zijn vakgroep Mondziekten en Kaakchirurgie/Orale Pathologie bij de Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam/ACTA, nationaal in diverse gremia en internationaal. Dit eredocoraat doet daar recht aan. Om de internationale dimensie van zijn werk in het brandpunt te zetten in de kolommen van het Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Tandheelkunde, is gekozen voor een weergave van de toespraak van erepromotor Dr. Pál Fejérdy, decaan van de Faculteit der Tandheelkunde aan de Semmelweis Universiteit.

Toespraak van Prof. Dr Pál Fejérdy, decaan van de Faculteit der Tandheelkunde aan de Semmelweis University of Medicine:

Isaac van der Waal graduated from Dental School in 1968 at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, and took a one-year rotating internship at Eastman Dental Center, Rochester, New York. After a four-year training at the Department of

De Rector van de Semmelweis Universiteit feliciteert Prof. Van der Waal met het ere-doctoraat.



Oral Surgery of the Free University in Amsterdam, he registered as an oral surgeon in 1973, the same year in which he defended his thesis on 'Carcinoma of the tongue; a clinico-pathologic study'.

In 1975 he was appointed chairman and Associate Professor in Oral Pathology at the Free University in Amsterdam. From 1975 until 1976 he served a Fellowship in Oral Pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington D.C. In 1979 he was appointed full Professor in Oral Pathology at the Free University. At present he is head of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Oral Pathology of the Free University/ACTA, Amsterdam.

Professor Van der Waal has authored or co-authored approximately 150 papers. He is the author or co-author of several books, among which 'Oral Oncology', 'Oral Pathology', 'Diseases of the Tongue', 'The Burning Mouth Syndrome', and 'Diseases of the Jaws'.

From 1984 until 1986 he served as President of the International Association of Oral Pathologists. He is associated editor of the Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine. Furthermore, he is editor in chief of the Dutch Journal of Dentistry.

Professor Van der Waal's contacts with the Faculty of Dentistry of our university have a history of almost 20 years. Besides mutual meetings in Amsterdam and Budapest, at several international workshops, a collaboration was and is going on. These contacts resulted in joint publications – like the book 'Oral Oncology', published in 1984, and other papers written in collaboration with Professor Jolán Bánóczy and Dr. Mária Albrecht – increasing the prestige of our university. As a further result of this close relationship between the Budapest and Amsterdam Departments, various Hungarian oral surgeons spent several weeks or months in Amsterdam. Recently a one year fellowship has been completed by a young Hungarian oral surgeon.

It is a big honour to gain an outstanding man and distinguished scientist like Professor Van der Waal as a *Doctor Honoris Causa* of our university.

Aan het dankwoord van Professor Van der Waal ontleenden wij de volgende passage:

It has become clear that oral cancer is largely a preventable disease, in particular by abstinence of smoking habits. In Hungary oral cancer accounts for approximately 7% of all cancers. When also cancer of the pharynx, the larynx and the lung are included – all strongly associated with tobacco habits – this figure even rises to 30%-35%. The dental profession can play an important role in the prevention of oral cancers at these sites by promoting a healthy lifestyle among their patients, particularly with regard to tobacco habits and the use of alcohol. Although the dental profession should work with and through existing anticancer and health education agencies, there is a real opportunity for dentists to approach 'Health through oral health'.

Het Algemeen Bestuur en de Redactie van het Tijdschrift willen langs deze weg Professor Van der Waal van harte feliciteren met de hem toegekende graad.

Prof. dr A.J.M. Plasschaert,  
voorzitter Algemeen Bestuur NTVT