

Moment of Proud for PJR

PROF. JAN PRUIM APPOINTED OFFICER IN THE ORDER OF ORANGE NASSAU

April 17, 2024

On behalf of Editorial Board of Pakistan Journal of Radiology (www.pakjr.com), I would like to congratulate Professor Jan Pruim, our esteemed reviewer upon conferring of prestigious award by the His Majesty King of The Netherlands for his humongous contribution as a nuclear physician, researcher, and teacher. Professor of Medical Imaging at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands) and reviewer for the Pakistan Journal of Radiology, Prof. Jan Pruim, by order of H.M. King Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands has been appointed Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau upon his retirement from the UMCG (University Medical Centre Groningen). The royal decorations were presented to him on Wednesday, April 17, by Mayor Koen Schuiling of the municipality of Groningen.

Furthermore, chairman of the Board of the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), Prof. Ate van der Zee, presented him with a small bronze statue, the UMCG Frog, as a thank you for everything he has done for the UMCG. The Board of Directors awards this exclusive distinction to individuals who have made a major contribution to achieving the objectives of the UMCG through their special personal efforts.



The Mayor of the City of Groningen, Dr K. Schuiling (left), has -on behalf of His Majesty the King- just decorated Prof. Pruim (right) with the medal belonging to the distinction of Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau.



The UMCG distinction The Frog is presented by the chairman of the Board of the UMCG, Prof. A. van der Zee (inset: The Frog of UMCG).

(The frog stands central in the logo of the UMCG as it symbolizes cleanliness in ancient sagas, and the choice for a frog as a logo is quirky and stands-out, just as the UMCG wants to stand out in the quality of their care, teaching, training and research.)

Long career in the UMCG

Jan Pruim worked at the UMCG from 1985. He has made a special contribution to all core tasks of the UMCG: top referral and top clinical patient care, education and training and translational research. He was particularly active in the fields of transplantation, oncology and molecular medicine and imaging. Since 2014 he has been a professor of Medical Imaging, specializing in PET scans.

Expansion of transplant medicine

Early in his career he worked as a transplant coordinator. Transplant medicine became bigger and broader during this period after the first pioneering phase. Prof. Pruim did a lot of research into communication surrounding donation requests. This research greatly improved the interaction and communication with families of organ donors. His research has also contributed to the formation of ideas surrounding the current Dutch Organ Donation Act.

Development of PET center

Thanks to Jan Pruijm's tireless efforts, the Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (NMMI) department has grown into an internationally leading clinical department with great expertise in the field of PET scans. These scans make it clear whether someone has a certain condition such as cancer or inflammation. It uses a radioactive substance that is absorbed by the body. After his training as a nuclear medicine doctor, Jan Pruijm was the only doctor at the PET center for a while. A large multidisciplinary research group in this area formed the basis and substantiation of patient care from this PET center. Jan Pruijm was involved in this development like a spider on the web.

Strong didactic qualities

Prof. Pruijm also played a leading role in education in the field of nuclear medicine; both in the UMCG and nationally and internationally. In Europe he was one of the most sought-after speakers, not only because of his expertise but certainly also because of his strong didactic qualities and vision. He was elected Dean of the European School of Nuclear Medicine (Dean ESNM) and was instrumental in the success of the current European School of Molecular Imaging and Therapy (ESMIT). He was also a visiting professor at Stellenbosch University (South Africa) and did many missions in Asia, including as IAEA expert.

Huge commitment as a trainer

Prof. Pruijm has made enormous efforts as a trainer. Not only for the NMMI department, but also for all other specialist training courses at the UMCG. He was chairman of the Central Training Committee (COC) of the UMCG for many years. (The COC consists of all trainers who are responsible for the content and organization of the various medical specialist training courses.) A large part of this period coincided with the COVID crisis.

Under his chairmanship, the first successful institutional inspection in the field of specialist training was carried out. And under his leadership the regional vision on specialist training in the North & East Netherlands Specialist Training Region was drawn up. During his chairmanship, work/life balance for medical specialists in training became an important theme. He provided a safe, training-oriented atmosphere. He campaigned for issues such as working hours, healthy schedules and facilities for pregnant women and young mothers among the medical specialists in training.

Recognition of a unique career

The royal decoration and De Frog that Jan Pruijm received on the occasion of his retirement from the UMCG on reaching retirement age, are a recognition of his unique career and versatile social involvement.

Memorable Visit to Pakistan 24-25th March 2018

I would like to avail this occasion to refresh good memories of nuclear medicine and radiology fraternity of Pakistan about Prof. Jan Pruijm's visit to Karachi, Pakistan in March 2018. Prof Jan was a key-note speaker in PET/CT Symposium organized by PET/CT Imaging services, Dept of Radiology, of Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi on 24th March 2018.

His three state-of-art lectures on the role of PET/CT in carcinoma of lung, head and neck and prostate were highly informative, insightful, and well appreciated by the audience.

Prof. Jan Pruijm's dedication, passion and leadership have inspired many. His legacy continues through the countless lives he has touched and advancement he has made in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging.



Prof. Jan Pruim at Symposium venue on 24th March 2018.



Prof. Jan Pruim at Mausoleum of Quaid-e Azam on 25th March 2018

Maseeh uz Zaman

Editor PJR,

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