

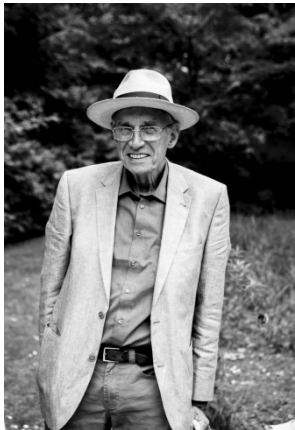
Dear colleagues,

With deep sadness we inform you that

Prof. dr. Serge Daan

passed away on Friday, February 9th, 2018.

Serge Daan was an inspiring biologist with a broad interest in science. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and was knighted in the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands. He was awarded several prizes and awards, including the prestigious International Prize for Biology, which he received from the Emperor of Japan. His publications were cited over 15000 times and include seminal work in chronobiology, sleep research, psychiatry, physiology, ecology and behavioural biology.



Serge Daan (1940-2018)

Serge Daan studied Biology at the University of Amsterdam, received his PhD *Cum Laude* on hibernation and circadian rhythms in 1973. As a post-doc he worked with two founders of Chronobiology: Jürgen Aschoff and Colin Pittendrigh. With Aschoff he published influential work on latitudinal adaptation of circadian entrainment in birds and mammals. With Pittendrigh he published a series of 5 classic papers, often referred to as ‘the Bible of Chronobiology’. In 1975, he moved to the University of Groningen, where he was appointed in the Animal Ecology group of Prof. dr. Drent. Serge his work became more eco-physiologically oriented by focussing on kestrel-vole interactions in relation to energy expenditure. ‘Time and Energy’ became a central theme in his gradually expanding Chronobiology group that published a series of classical papers on parental investment, including the highly cited “Prudent Parent” paper on maximal sustainable energy expenditure (over 1600 citations). The notion of quantifiable sleep intensity through EEG recordings led to the development of the ‘Two Process Model’ of human sleep regulation, together with Alex Borbély and Domien Beersma. To date, this model still inspires many

sleep researchers all over the world and led to a closer collaboration with psychiatrist Rudi van den Hoofdakker and the development of light therapy. In 1996 Serge became Professor of Behavioural Biology and in 2003 he was awarded with the endowed Niko Tinbergen Chair in Behavioural Biology. He was a member and chair of several committees of the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO), chair of the Dutch Society of Behavioural Biology, and founded the Centre of Timing Research in the Netherlands. In 2001 he became Vice-Dean and later Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, where he was instrumental in implementing the tenure track system and the Rosalind Franklin fellowship program for women at the University of Groningen. He stayed active in the field after retirement and was deeply moved when he received his last publication, the biography of Jürgen Aschoff – *Die Innere Uhr des Menschen*, two months before he died.

Serge Daan (co-)supervised more than 40 PhD students, most of them able to follow a successful career in science. Many of us will remember his sharp analytical mind and his great scientific skills, as well as the friendly and open scientific atmosphere that he created together with his wife Ruth Hohe-Daan, by inviting many guests and colleagues to their house at lively dinners, discussion sessions and garden parties. The world lost a great scientist and many of us will remember him as a dear colleague, mentor and friend.

Serge Daan passed away surrounded by his family at his house ‘Villa Later’, Hoofdweg 274, 9765 CN, Paterswolde, the Netherlands.

Roelof Hut

Chronobiology unit, GELIFES, University of Groningen.



Serge at Svalbard