

Begrüßung des Ehrenmitglieds, Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques de Laey, Gent



Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques de Laey

Jean-Jacques de Laey completed his residency under Professor Jules François. Prof. François encouraged his young co-worker to explore the potential of a new technique, fluorescein angiography. The explosion of knowledge gained from the new technique led to the creation of a new and distinct subspecialty in ophthalmology, medical retina. Professor de Laey undoubtedly would become one of the undisputed leaders in this field in Europe together with Professor Wessing and Professor Bird, both honorary members of our society. He was an active member of the FAN Club, the European Fluorescein Angiography Club. Here he has impressed any of us, who worked in this field by his profound knowledge and diagnostic skills. You can see this on Thursday in this year's Netzhaut-Fallkonferenz.

In 1980, he succeeded to Professor François as Director and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology in Gent. This was a prestigious heritage. He was President of the European Board of Ophthalmology and Program Secretary of EVER. The EUPO course, which he organized three times exemplifies his role as a teacher. He gave more than 250 lectures abroad, in every continent of the world underscoring his international reputation in medical retina. He combines his interest in ophthalmology with his passion for history. You can see this in the symposium on Saturday morning which he organized on "Ophthalmological leaders from Germany". Such a broad range of responsibilities and activities as chairman, organizer, teacher and prolific scientific writer with several books and more than 270 papers of course resulted in a number of honors and awards, amongst them the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists of the United Kingdom and the Italian Ophthalmological Society. He is also Honorary Member of the Club Jules Gonin and recipient of the Donders Medal, the most prestigious honor given by the Ophthalmological Society of the Netherlands.

Professor de Laey has engaged himself for European ophthalmology. After serving in different other functions for the ICO, he is at this moment General Secretary of the ICO, the international Council of Ophthalmology and therefore very much involved in the organization of the next world congress.

The Honorary Membership of the DOG is bestowed to Professor de Laey in recognition of his outstanding contributions to ophthalmology, his excellent achievements in vision research regarding blinding retinal diseases, his successful endeavours in coordinating European ophthalmological research and education, and for playing a key role in establishing European ophthalmological institutions and thereby supporting international cooperation.

Grußwort Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques de Laey, Gent

Herr Präsident, meine Damen und Herren, ich fühle mich durch die Ehrenmitgliedschaft in der DOG sehr geehrt und möchte dafür dem Präsidenten und dem Präsidium danken. Unsere Klinik in Gent hatte sehr gute Beziehungen zur Essener Augenklinik, wo ich zum ersten Mal Achim Wessing traf. Wir hatten zahlreiche Gelegenheiten, Prof. Meyer-Schwickerath und sein Team zu treffen. Wie Sie gehört haben, hat die Fluoreszenzangiographie in meiner beruflichen Tätigkeit eine sehr große Rolle gespielt und ich war glücklich, mit den deutschen Pionieren dieser Technik zusammenzuarbeiten und Freundschaft zu schließen. Zuerst Achim Wessing, aber auch Lemke und Jütte aus Jena und Hans Baurman aus Bonn. Später war ich an der Gründung der EUPO beteiligt und ich erinnere mich gerne daran, dass die erste Initiative zur Gründung der Europäischen Association of University Professors während einer Diskussion mit Steve Ryan, August Deutmann und Achim Wessing während der ISFAS-Symposium in Baden-Baden entstand. Die deutsche Ophthalmologie spielt eine große Rolle in der EUPO und später im European Board. Dort traf ich neue Freunde, Fritz Naumann, Manfred Spitznas, der wie Sie wissen der Begründer von ECORA, woraus später EVER entstand, war, Peter Wiedemann und viele andere. DOG Mitglieder spielen eine große Rolle in der internationalen Ophthalmologie. Die Academia wird am Samstag in dem Symposium „Footsteps in the Sand“ an Ihre berühmten Vorgänger erinnern. Es freut mich sehr, dass die DOG diese Tradition für Exzellenz fortsetzt. Ich freue mich auf den Weltkongress im Juni 2010 in Berlin und danke für die Ehre.
Begrüßung des Ehrenmitglieds, Prof. Dr. Jean-Jacques de Laey

Begrüßung des Ehrenmitglieds, Prof. Stephen J. Ryan, Los Angeles



Prof. Stephen J. Ryan

Professor Ryan, President of the Doheny Eye Institute served as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Southern California, as Dean of the Keck School of Medicine of the

University of Southern California and Senior Vice President of USC. As President of the Doheny Eye Institute, he created one of the leading American institutions for ophthalmology and vision research. Under Stephen Ryan, Doheny became one of the best eye departments in the United States. He is Home Secretary of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in the United States. He is also an internationally recognized expert in the field of retinal diseases and ocular trauma. Therefore he has provided testimony to the US Congress on numerous occasions in support of the national institutes of health and the National Eye Institute. He is President of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR).

Dr. Ryan is a member of numerous ophthalmological organizations and has served as a president of a number of them. He is the author of nine books amongst them Retina, of over 270 articles in the scientific literature and he has delivered more than 30 named lectures. On Friday you can listen to his presentation in Translational Research in Retina. Dr. Ryan has received over 20 honors and awards, amongst them the Senior Honor Award of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the honorary doctorate of this university.

I have always admired his research and administrative skills. But what he can do best is to influence on people to do deliberately what he wants them to do. At the moment he is the Scientific Program Committee Chair for the WOC 2010 in Berlin. If you are member of this team, you know what I mean. Worldwide there are more than 30 leaders of eye hospitals who have been trained in Doheny for some of their career, amongst them 15 became Chairmen in their country and 12 additional ones in the US. I think this is pretty unique.

The Honorary Membership of the DOG is bestowed to Professor Ryan in recognition of his outstanding contributions to ophthalmology, his excellent achievements in vision research regarding blinding retinal diseases, and his special ability to form leaders in international ophthalmology and thereby fostering international cooperation.

Grußwort Prof. Stephen J. Ryan, Los Angeles

Thank you very much, it means so much to me on a personal basis for three reasons. I am sure, Peter is afraid, he knows I can just talk to long, but if I restrict myself and just say how deeply honored I am and humbled by this award, because it comes from the DOG and because of the meaningfulness to have this meeting here in Leipzig and because of my friends in Germany and especially in German ophthalmology. For those of us in American ophthalmology, we know that the roots all come from Germany and specifically Berlin. You saw the von Helmholtz, there would be no ophthalmology without German ophthalmology. And those of us in academic medicine in the United States, particularly if you went to Baltimore, John Hopkins, know that it was the traditions of the German institutes and emphasis on research that is the basis of academic medicine in the United States. The reason that it is impressive to me and means a lot to me to receive this award in Leipzig relates to the great traditions and historic cities that you have and the trade and how central this was to Europe hundreds and hundreds of years ago. And as you have heard from the rector, to imagine that here is the 600th anniversary of your great university and to know that was more than two hundred years before Great Britain even established colonies in the country where I come from, so again you have proud traditions and great excellence of centuries here and up through 20 years ago with your Monday where again you changed the history of Europe. And again, when I think, what really counts, though, and makes ophthalmology and medicine so special is that it is always about people, isn't? That is what really makes health care and medicine and ophthalmology so special. And I think the Rector will allow me to at least indulge in our bias. We think we are very, very fortunate to have ophthalmology as the best specialty, that's what we take pride in being part of that. When I was a Dean in medicine I didn't get everybody to agree with me in all the other specialties. But what it really means is that through the years, Jean-Jacques has mentioned many of the great leaders of German ophthalmology, certainly I learned so much all the time from my German colleagues, but especially when you are kind enough to send those young colleagues over to Doheny, where they do great work and accomplish so much, teach me and teach everybody in Doheny so much and that certainly was the case with your great President, Peter Wiedemann. So, for all these reasons, this award means so much to me and I'm deeply and most appreciative.