

On May 3, 2014, Prof. Bert Bijsterbosch passed away at the age of almost 80 years. He was a member of the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry and Colloid Science (now: Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter) at Wageningen University for over 32 years, from 1963 to 1995. Before that, he graduated in physical chemistry at the University of Utrecht in the group of Prof. Theo Overbeek. In Wageningen he did his PhD with Prof. Hans Lyklema. Bert had an important role in building the group and became a close friend and colleague of Hans.

As a researcher, PhD supervisor and teacher Bert made significant contributions to the area of colloid science, in particular to electrokinetics and the more applied aspects. In addition, he held various important management positions both at university and national level. In 1972 he was formally appointed to the rank of Lector, a position comparable with Associate Professor in the American system. This position was later upgraded to that of Full Professor. In the early 1970s Bert was involved in the development of (and nowadays still very successful) educational program of Molecular (Life) Sciences at Wageningen University. At Wageningen University Bert was highly appreciated as a scientist and for his integrity in management matters; he was able to make and implement decisions without alienating opponents. In fact that was also the style in which he played chess.

Bert was not only highly recognized and appreciated as a university professor, also for IACIS he played a central role. From 1982 to 1994 he was its first Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. His contributions can still be seen in the Newsletters, to which he was a constant contributor. IACIS is very indebted to him.

After his early retirement there was more time for his family and for the chess club, but he still regularly visited the Physical Chemistry team at Wageningen. He was one of the first IACIS members and remained that until his death.

The last years of his life he struggled with a chronic condition that eventually led to his death. His colleagues, former PhD students, IACIS and friends, treasure warm memories of Bert as a conscientious scientist and a modest, committed person.

Mieke Kleijn and Hans Lyklema.