



NSSA newsbits

Meetings attended by the NSSA president

The president of the NSSA, Prof Ali Dhansay, attended the 58th IUNS Council Meeting in London, 1-2 March 2018. One of the agenda items was the review of the IUNS Private Sector Engagement Policy. The IUNS Council requested Council members, Prof Benjamin Caballero and Prof Ali Dhansay, to review and update this policy, which is currently under way. At the same council meeting, Prof Dhansay was appointed to the IUNS Task Force, "Towards Multidimensional Indicators of Child Growth and Development".

Prof Ali Dhansay was invited by the UK MRC's Epidemiology Unit to an International Consensus Workshop on Developing Guidance for Dietary Public Health Researchers Engaging with the Food Industry. The workshop was held at The University Centre, Cambridge, UK, on 16-17 April 2018.

Prof AJS Benadé

01/10/1938 – 18/04/2018

We are saddened by the sudden passing of Prof Spinnie Benadé on Thursday April 18, 2018 at the age of 79. Prof Benadé previously served on the NSSA council, and was the President from 1986-1990. He was one of the founder members of the Western Cape Branch of the Nutrition Society. In 1992, he received the prestigious NSSA award for his outstanding contribution to nutrition research in South Africa.



Prof Benadé's career started at The Human Sciences Laboratory of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, where he mainly worked in the field of carbohydrate and fat metabolism during exercise. In 1973, he received a stipendium from the Max-Planck Society to do research on muscle metabolism at the Max-Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine in Göttingen, Germany. After his return to South Africa he joined the National Research Institute for Nutritional Diseases (NRIND)

of the South African Medical Council, doing research on the role of dietary fat on plasma lipoprotein metabolism and the development of atherosclerosis in animal models. In 1988, he was appointed as Director of the NRIND, (which in 1990 became the Nutritional Intervention Research Unit, NIRU), a position which he held until his retirement from the SAMRC in 2004. After his initial work in Cardiovascular Disease, he seemed to have found his niche in the field of malnutrition. He worked tirelessly to establish strong community-based research projects aimed at improving the nutritional status of infants, preschool and school age children. During his tenure as Director of the NIRU, Prof Benadé made an enormous contribution to Nutrition research in South Africa, for which he received extensive international recognition. During this period, he supervised many of his staff in obtaining their PhD degrees.

After his retirement from the SAMRC in 2004, he joined the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). He started the Functional Food Research Unit and was Head of the Unit up to the time of his passing. He never lost his interest and enthusiasm in his fatty acid research work, which he continued to focus on at CPUT. He passed away one week before he was due to receive an award from CPUT, recognising the contribution to technological innovation stemming from his research.

During his career, he presented 34 papers as invited speaker at international congresses. He is the author and co-author of more than 200 research papers in scientific journals and was a member of several international nutrition advisory boards. He was a nominee for the 2001 World Technology Award for Health and Medicine.

Besides his research activities, Prof Benadé had a wide range of interests. He loved to travel, not only in South Africa, but all over the world, and with his wife, Retha, at his side. His rose garden was a great source of inspiration; he was an enthusiastic observer of the stars; and loved reading and doing woodwork. Prof Benadé was the proud father of three sons, and the grandfather of his beloved five grandchildren.

Nutrition research has lost a great scientist. Spinnie, you will be dearly missed.