

Akzo Nobel Science Award Goes to Professor Jacques van Boom

Arnhem (The Netherlands), June 5, 2000 – The Akzo Nobel Science Award 2000 has been bestowed on Professor Jacques H. van Boom, who lectures in organic chemistry at Leiden University. The Board of the ‘Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen’ (Dutch Society for Sciences) has decided to honor him with this award in recognition of his scientific work in the field of organic synthesis of biomolecules. The Akzo Nobel Science Award 2000 will be presented on October 31 and marks the 30th anniversary of the Award, which carries a prize of €45,000 (NLG 100,000).

The jury for this annual science award, which confers alternately in the Netherlands and Sweden, judged Professor van Boom to be a scientist of international stature in the field of organic synthesis of biomolecules, and one of the Netherlands’ most eminent chemists. His numerous publications of high standing describe his research on and the synthesis of complex biomolecules, notably nucleic acids and carbohydrates. His work represents a considerable advancement in the understanding of DNA. Among the many accomplishments of his group, the development of various synthetic vaccines, in close collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry (particularly Akzo Nobel’s pharmaceutical unit Organon), stands out. Professor van Boom’s great qualities as a teacher and a scientist have been recognized through the formation of a whole school of thought: “van Boom Chemistry”.

In 1999, Marcus Aldén and Sune Svanberg, both professors at Lund Institute of Technology, received the award in recognition of their merit in the field of laser spectroscopy.

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Note for the editor

Akzo Nobel, based in the Netherlands, serves customers throughout the world with healthcare products, coatings, and chemicals. Consolidated sales for 1999 (excluding Acordis) totaled some EUR 12 billion (USD 13 billion, GBP 8 billion). In the beginning of 2000, the Company employed 68,000 people in 75 countries. Financial results for the second quarter of 2000 will be announced on July 26, 2000.

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