

Speech mayor Bengevoord of Winterswijk.  
Award ceremony, Dr. Cas Weijkamp.  
Theater de Storm, Winterswijk.  
Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Doctor Weijkamp,

Winterswijk is a wonderful village, situated in a beautiful area with outstanding facilities.

One of those facilities is our hospital which often receives national critical acclaim when it comes to good health care and patient satisfaction.

A hospital where employees are committed to deliver the best health care for citizens in our region, day in day out.

As Mayor, this fills me with pride.

Today, Winterswijk is the stage for a symposium attended by national and international scientists.

This also fills me with pride, as this does not happen every day.

It is, therefore, an honour to give this speech here today.

Please do not expect me to give scientific explanations on clinical chemistry or laboratory research.

This is not my field of expertise, so I will rely on your expertise.

It is a joy to wish happy birthday and a sadness to bid farewell to Dr. Cas Weijkamp today.

Dr. Weijkamp began working at the former Elisabeth Hospital in Winterswijk as a chemical analyst on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1977. Other than working at the laboratory, he continued his studies at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, where he wrote his doctorate on glycohemoglobin, in other words HbA1c.

A topic which always remained his interest.

After obtaining his doctorate, Dr. Weijkamp started the multi component analysis laboratory at the regional Queen Beatrix Hospital, with the aim to improve the level of quality in laboratory research.

In his laboratory in Winterswijk he made samples for national and international equalisation and standardisation of analysis.

These samples made their way to all laboratories throughout the Netherlands and internationally.

These samples originated from the Regional Queen Beatrix Hospital in Winterswijk and it was an outstanding achievement for this small hospital to have so efficiently distributed these throughout the world.

Dr. Weijkamp achieved his biggest success with the standardisation of HbA1c. As a prominent member of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) he dedicated himself for years to a worldwide standard in blood research of diabetic patients.

This improved enormously the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic patients.

Dr. Weijkamp did not limit himself to the improvement of diabetic care. He developed a calibration substance that made alcohol tests more reliable. This calibration substance allows laboratories to come to internationally-used standardised results. This CDT -test is applied in clinical and forensic situations.

Due to his scientific knowledge and expertise, Dr. Weijkamp is a popular speaker at congresses and meetings all over the world.

More than 100 scientific publications written by him have been published in international trade journals.

Whenever Dr. Weijkamp gives speeches, he always refers to life in the countryside and particularly his house in Winterswijk Kotten. This personally really thrills me. As a result of this, pictures of Winterswijk were displayed all over the world. As a Mayor, I cannot wish for a better ambassador.

Despite all national and international fame and recognition, Dr. Weijkamp has always remained a modest man who does not like to be in the spotlights.

Cooperation was a priority for him.

Through his skills and personality, he was able to unite colleagues, manufacturers and others involved for the common good which led to major achievements.

Due to his services for clinical chemistry, in 2017 the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry bestowed Dr. Weijkamp with a special award: the IFCC Medal for Outstanding Service.

In the Netherlands we have a long-standing tradition to honour citizens for an outstanding achievement and use Royal Decorations for this purpose.

When awarding someone with a Royal Decoration we distinguish the Order of Orange Nassau and the Order of the Dutch Lion.

The first order is awarded for contributions and services to society.

The second order is awarded for exceptional achievements and is a rare gift from the monarch.

Doctor Weijkamp, I will now get straight to the point:

Scientists from all over the world have sent letters of recommendation for a Royal Decoration.

The King has not left these recommendations unanswered.

It is therefore a great pleasure to inform you that His Majesty the King is pleased to now bestow upon you the honour of becoming a Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion!

Congratulations!

Ladies and gentlemen, I have come to the end of my speech.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Dr. Weijkamp, his wife José, family and friends for this well-deserved decoration.

I am very grateful to those who have shown their support and recommendation regarding this Royal Decoration that has now been bestowed upon Dr. Weijkamp.

Thank you very much.