

November 2020

The President  
SASBMB

### **RECOGNITION OF PROF DUBERY**

Prof Dubery started his academic career in 1982 in the Department of Biochemistry at the then RAU-University, now University of Johannesburg (UJ), where he quickly moved through the ranks to full Professor, served as Head of Department (1988-2005), and is currently Director of the Research Centre for Plant Metabolomics.

In his academic career, Prof Dubery has worked for the integration of Biochemistry with related disciplines such as Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, to support modern developments in biotechnological applications in agriculture, plant protection and food production, areas that are critical for a developing country such as South Africa. As such, he builds a comprehensive research program for plant biochemistry and molecular biology, focused on creating new knowledge with regard to defensive responses in plants.

To date, Prof Dubery has received several national and international awards and prizes. These include the prestigious German Alexander von Humbolt Award, awards from the Chromatography Association of South Africa, the UJ Vice-Chancellor Award as Outstanding Researcher (2017) as well as the silver (1982) and then later gold medal (2016) of SASBMB for lifetime contributions to Biochemistry. In the past two weeks, Prof Dubery has received a B1 NRF rating and the UJ Faculty of Science Outstanding Researcher Award in the category of Research Professor.

During the 40 years of his career as a scientist and academic, Prof Dubery has made a significant contribution to building research capacity and meeting the needs of the research sector in South Africa by training a new generation of high-caliber scientists, focused on the future needs of the country. So far >50 MSc and 14 PhD Biochemistry students have graduated under his supervision / mentorship. Prof

Dubery has published more than 170 research publication in international journals and books, with a Scopus *h*-index of 30 and over 4500 citations, and he serves on the editorial boards of three ISI journals.

It is noteworthy that six of his former students are currently professors in Biochemistry or Plant Sciences at South African universities. His exemplary scholarship and continuous, significant contributions to the advancement of science (both nationally and internationally) through research and teaching, has made an invaluable, strong contribution to the enhancement of the national and international profile of scientific research and related activities at the University of Johannesburg.

Prof Dubery's exceptional aptitude as a scientist, outstanding and exemplary fulfilment of his position as an academic and outstanding contributions to the advancement of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology through research and teaching, have made a strong and valuable contribution to the state of science in South Africa. In addition, his activities stretched across boundaries and have received significant international recognition, contributing to the scientific reputation of South Africa. On an international level, he is regarded by his peers as a recognized scientist whose research contributions have had a significant impact over a long period.

Prof Dubery, the Department of Biochemistry, UJ, celebrates and salutes your outstanding contributions and achievements, and are honoured that you will still spend two more years with us post-retirement from January 2021.

**Prof. Lizelle Ann Piater**

HoD: Department of Biochemistry

