Erik Kriek, Ph.D.

Erik Kriek, Ph.D., a member of the AACR since 1981, died May 19, 2013, at the age of 81.

Born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Kriek received his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Amsterdam. He focused on organic chemistry, which served him well in his research contributions to our current knowledge of carcinogenesis. On completion of his academic program in 1961, he joined the department of biochemistry of the Netherlands Cancer Institute, which was then known as the Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Huis, Het Nederlands Kanker Instituut, as a research chemist, where he remained throughout his career. From 1975 to 1990, Kriek served as the head of the division of chemical carcinogenesis, and became an honorary staff member in 1990.

Kriek’s initial research in carcinogenesis explored the alkylation of nucleic acids by xenobiotic compounds. In the mid-1960s he made some of the seminal contributions toward understanding the mechanisms by which carcinogenic aromatic amines modify nucleic acids. He also conducted extensive studies on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and alkyl derivatives, and their DNA-damaging effects. In subsequent contributions in this area, he provided both molecular insights and analytical methodologies that aided efforts to characterize genetic damage and the potential for adverse biological effects as a consequence of genome modification.

In addition to his membership in the AACR, Kriek was a member of the European Association for Cancer Research and active in the organization of numerous meetings and conferences worldwide. Additionally, he served as a member of the editorial boards of various publications.

Kriek is survived by his wife, Eeva, four children, and four grandchildren.