

## Prof Dr Martin Tielen awarded in Wroclaw (Poland)

By Prof. Roman Kolacz

Rector, former CR for Poland at the ISAH

**The Senate of the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences has awarded Prof. Martin Tielen the honorary title of professor at this University, in recognition of his scientific output, his contribution to teaching and training of young academics and his support for young researchers from the developing countries. The award was conferred on Prof. Tielen at a ceremony which was held at the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences on November 21,2009**

Professor Martin Tielen is an outstanding Dutch specialist of pig health and behaviour, animal welfare and well-being, epizootics, safety of feed and food and sustainability of animal feed. He is an unquestioned authority in animal and veterinary sciences, author or co-author of over 200 publications in prestigious journals, 13 books and chapters published in English and German in the Netherlands, Germany and the US. He was an invited speaker in more than 20 foreign countries all over the world.

Martin Tielen was born on 22 September 1942 in Horst-Meterik, The Netherlands. In 1969 he graduated from the department of Zoötechnics at the Agricultural University of Wageningen. In 1974 he defended his doctoral thesis on “*Incidence and prevention by animal care of lung and liver affections in swine*”. In 1985 he gained the degree of a professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Utrecht University.

Prof. Tielen’s research comprised several subject areas. One of them was the integrated quality control in pigs, focused on pig health and welfare. He investigated the effects of environmental conditions on animal health. Besides, he investigated epizootic issues and their impact on the incidence and control of *Pseudorabies* and *Salmonella sp.* in pigs, lesions in the respiratory system due to adverse environmental conditions, the effects of endotoxins on respiratory diseases and others. Worth noting are his investigations on diseases commonly found in veterinarians and pig breeders, such as allergies, lung diseases, brucellosis, etc. The third subject area covered by Prof. Tielen was connected with safety and sustainability of animal feed production. His publications were focused on: impact of animal housing on animal disease incidence, integrated quality control in animal production, herd health monitoring and control programs, health risks for animal breeders and veterinarians, safety in animal nutrition, HACCP in industries manufacturing feed ingredients, sustainability of feeding technologies and the role of genetically modified products.

Prof. Tielen actively contributed to training of young researchers, was a supervisor and reviewer of 16 doctoral theses at home and abroad. He actively participated in many conferences and has gained reputation as an excellent organizer, academic and scientist. From 1987-1995 was he deputy director of the Animal Health Service in the Southern Netherlands responsible for Research and Development and ICT. From 1995–2002 he was a strategic adviser at the Animal Health Service in the Netherlands. Since 1992 he has been a member of the Executive Board of ISAH (International Society of Animal Hygiene), in 1997-2000 its chairman and in 2000 the organizer of the Xth International Congress of Animal Hygiene in Maastricht. Since 2000 he has been the President of the Prof. Tielen Fund-Foundation, providing support to young researchers in the developing countries, allowing them to participate in ISAH congresses. To the date, the Prof. Tielen Fund has awarded grants to 85 young scientists, including academics and doctoral students of the Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences.

In 2000 Prof. Martin Tielen retired and since then he has been Professor Emeritus of the State University of Utrecht. In 2000–2008 he was a member of the Evaluation Committee of the

Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education and visited veterinary faculties in many European countries, including Poland.

In 2000-2006 Prof. Martin Tielen was the President of the Netherlands Feed Industry Association (NEVEDI), representing all feed enterprises in the Netherlands, manufacturing 15 million tonnes of animal compound feed per annum. From June 2004 to July 2007, Prof. Tielen was the President of the European Federation of Feed Manufacturers (FEFAC), representing 23 associations of animal feed manufacturers in EU member states. Since 2002 Prof. Tielen is member of the Supervisory Board of the Rabobank and member of the steering committee of Food&Agri Principles. He was in all member of 23 major Dutch and international associations and scientific boards, directly or indirectly connected with the hygiene of agricultural production.

Worth attention are Prof. Tielen's close links with the scientific community of Wrocław and a number of his visits to the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, where he participated in international conferences organized by the Faculty of Biology and Animal Science and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.