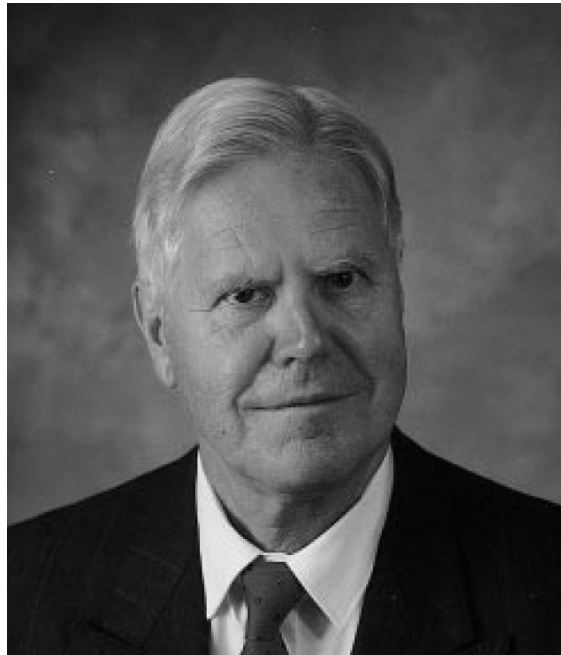


## Jan Rendel - In Memoriam



Professor emeritus Jan Rendel passed away on May 18, 2019, shortly after his 92nd birthday. Rendel was an honorary member of the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) and was one of the founders of the societies ESABR and ISABR [European (and International, respectively) Society for Animal Blood Group Research], which preceded the ISAG.

Rendel was born in 1927 in the small town Mjölby in southern Sweden. He graduated in 1952 with a bachelor of science in agronomy from the Royal Agricultural College in Uppsala, now the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Rendel spent one year at the Department of Genetics in Madison in the group of Robert Irwin, where he studied immunogenetics. He focused on the blood groups of cattle and sheep and obtained a master's degree in genetics. This work was continued in Uppsala, and in 1957 he successfully defended his PhD thesis. In 1964 Rendel was appointed professor in animal breeding at the College in Uppsala, a position which he held until his retirement in 1992. Throughout his career he was particularly interested in associations between genetic variation at the molecular level and variation in animal production traits, initially using blood groups and then the new molecular genetic markers. After his retirement Rendel maintained a strong interest in scientific research and often showed up at seminars or PhD defense ceremonies.

From 1968 to 1982 Rendel was on leave at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. During the final four years of this appointment, he acted as chief of the Animal Production Service. With others he brought the importance of animal genetic resources (AnGR) for food security of developing countries on the agenda of the UN environmental conference in Stockholm in 1972, which eventually led to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At the FAO Rendel initiated many hands-on projects aimed at the sustainable use and conservation of many breeds that provide the livelihood for small-scale farmers in low-income countries.

Rendel published more than 100 scientific papers in the field of animal breeding and genetics with a major focus on immunogenetics and physiological traits. Together with his predecessor Ivar Johansson, he wrote the textbook *Genetics and Animal Breeding*, which was translated in six languages and was used worldwide. He was an inspiring mentor and tutor to many young students from both Sweden and abroad.

Rendel was an active member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and acted for three years as vice president. He was an honorary member of the Italian Society of Veterinary Science and of the Polish Academy of Science. He was also Doctor Honoris Causa in Animal Science at the Veterinary Faculty at Pisa University.

Rendel will be kept in good memory by many friends all over the world.

Rendel is survived by his two sons, Johan and Henrik, and their families.

Leif Andersson, Jan Philipsson, and Kaj Sandberg, Uppsala, Sweden