

9. PRESIDENTS

1961. Dr G Dreosti (deceased), Cape Branch
1965. Mr L Ginsburg (deceased), Cape Branch
1972. Mr J de Wit (deceased), Northern Branch
1977. Professor H J H de Muelenaere (deceased), KwaZulu-Natal Branch
1981. Dr Pieter van Twisk, Northern Branch
1985. Mr Peter Bush, KwaZulu-Natal Branch
1991. Professor Nick Starke, Cape Branch
1993. Mr Aubrey Parsons, Northern Branch
2001. Mr Ron Timm, Northern Branch
2003. Mr Nigel Sunley, Northern Branch
2005. Mr Dave Watson, Northern Branch
2007. Mrs Rosie Maguire, Cape Branch
2010. Dr Gunnar Sigge, Cape Branch



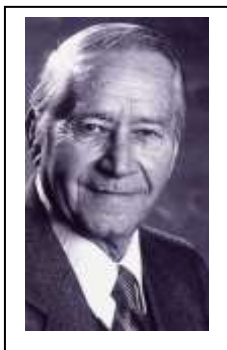
Council meeting at Nampak R&D, Cape Town in 2009



BRIEF PROFILES OF THE PRESIDENTS OF SAAFoST

SAAFoST has had 12 presidents in 50 years, four from the Cape Branch, six from the Northern Branch and two from KwaZulu-Natal. The association is one of the most successful professional societies in South Africa and is the envy of many similar bodies abroad.

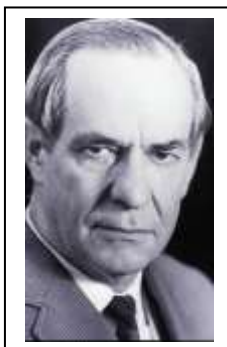
DR GUIDO DREOSTI



He was SAAFoST's first President (1961–1965). He had a distinguished scientific career with the Fishing Industry Research Institute until his retirement in 1970. He was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1973.

Dr Dreosti donated a sum of money to the Association which has been used to fund the Dreosti Award, given for the best research paper by a young scientist presented at the Biennial Congress. He died in 1997 aged 92.

MR LAZAR GINSBURG



Affectionately known as 'Gins' to his friends, he was a leading pioneer in fruit and vegetable refrigeration through what was known at the time as the Western Province Fruit Research Institute. He served on the first committee and was SAAFoST's second president (1965 – 1972). He was an active and enthusiastic member all his life.

The Ginsburg Award was introduced by the Council to honour Gins' memory. It is awarded for the best poster presented by a young scientist at the Biennial Congress. Mr Ginsburg was elected to Honorary Life Membership in 1983.

MR JAN DE WIT



Mr Jan de Wit was the first chairman of the Northern Branch, having been approached by Dr Dreosti in 1962 to expand the association into the then Transvaal and Orange Free State.

Mr de Wit was the first director of the CSIR National Food Research Institute (NFRI) which was inaugurated in 1969. He later became Vice President of the CSIR.

He was President of SAAFoST from 1972 to 1977.

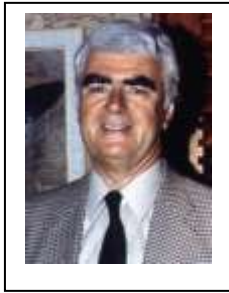
He was instrumental in SAAFoST becoming a founder member of

IUFoST in 1970,

During his presidency Natal Branch was formed in 1973 and *SA Food Review* became the new official Journal in 1973.

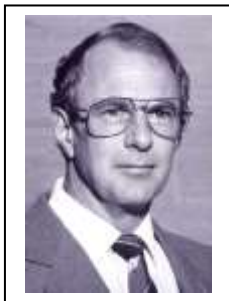
He was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1983

PROF. H J H DE MUELENAERE



Dr Hector de Muelenaere was born in Belgium. He immigrated to South Africa in 1951 and obtained a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Natal in 1959. Prior to his appointment by Hind Bros. & Co in 1964 as Chief Chemist, he was a senior lecturer in biochemistry at the University of Natal. (FIOSA Dec. 1965) The Natal Branch of SAAFoST was formed in June 1973 under the leadership of Dr de Muelenaere who was then the Research and Development Director of Food Corporation (Pty) Ltd in Durban. He continued with the group after its acquisition by the Anglo Vaal Company and became Group R&D Director of National Brands Ltd. He was Professor of Food Science at the University of Natal and was President of SAAFoST from 1977 to 1981. He was elected to Honorary Life Membership in 1989.

DR PIETER VAN TWISK



He was Secretary and later Chairman of the Northern Branch. Dr van Twisk was Head of the Food Technology Division of the National Food Research Institute at the CSIR. He then joined Fedfood as General Manager, Research and Development and Executive Director. He was the first South African to be elected a Fellow of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology in 2003

He was President of SAAFoST from 1981 to 1985 and elected to Honorary Life Membership in 1989. He remained active in the profession long after his retirement through his consulting business, PVT Consultants cc, and as an external examiner in the Department of Food Science at Pretoria University. He was the first Scientific Director & Chairman of the Food Advisory Consumer Service (FACS).

MR PETER BUSH



Peter Bush was born in Liverpool, UK and received his Food Technology Degree from Reading University. He moved to South Africa in 1973 and, after a successful career with Clover Dairies and then as Technical Manager of Carnation Foods, he started his own consultancy P B Bush & Associates.

During his presidency the *South African Journal of Food Science and Nutrition* was started in Collaboration with ADSA and the Nutrition Society, *Food Review* was provided free to all SAAFoST members, The financial status of SAAFoST improved after two successful technical symposia were held in Durban. He became an Honorary Life Member in 1985.

Peter moved to Australia in 1997 and settled in Melbourne. He has maintained close ties with SAAFoST. He visited South Africa in 2010 and was an active participant in the IUFoST World Congress in Cape Town.

MR NICK STARKE



Born in Cape Town, educated at Rondebosch Boys' School he graduated at Stellenbosch University, majoring in microbiology and chemistry. He served as Cape Branch Chair twice, was member of Council for many years and was SAAFoST President from 1991 to 1993. He was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1993. Head of Food Technology for many years with Metal Box Research, Customer Service, he continued when it became Nampak R&D. Appointed General Manager of Research and Development for Nampak in 1989, he retired in 2002. Prior to retirement he was made Professor Extraordinaire in the Department of Food Science at Stellenbosch University for six years. From 2001 to 2009 he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, ILSI South Africa. An emeritus member of IFT and member of the Inst. of Packaging SA, he remains active in an advisory capacity.

DR AUBREY PARSONS



He joined Haarman & Reimer S.A. (Pty) Ltd as Chemist in 1968 after 16 years of laboratory work with leading companies. He retired during the 1990s as Technical Director of Haarman and Reimer SA (Pty) Ltd. He served on the Northern Branch Committee until he retired in 2010 after 47 years of volunteer service. He also served on Council in a number of portfolios including as the association's President from 1993 to 2001, indeed SAAFoST's longest serving President. Aubrey built a strong relationship between SAAFoST and IUFoST over many years and also served on the IUFoST Governing Council. He was elected a SAAFoST Honorary Life Member in 1991.

He is a person of boundless energy, remarkable enthusiasm and dedication and has continued to play an active role in SAAFoST affairs. He was honoured by the Tshwane University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg who both awarded him Honorary Doctorate degrees.

MR RON TIMM



He joined SAAFoST at the invitation of Aubrey Parsons in 1975. In 1983 he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Northern Branch and to Council. He served on the Northern Branch Committee until his retirement and election to Honorary Life Membership in 2005. He was Chairman from 1991 to 1995 but he is possibly best remembered by his contemporaries as the man who saw to the financial control of the large functions like symposia and congresses.

As a member of Council from 1983 he was instrumental in a number of innovations such as the Members' Handbook, which was produced by Dr Kort from 1987 to 2005. There was also the Meritorious Award for Journalism to recognise accurate, responsible and scientifically correct journalism on food. As the National Treasurer in 1986, he introduced proper budgetary controls. His first task as president was to implement the new strategic plan and appoint Owen Frisby the first permanent member of staff (as the Executive Director) in December 2001, from a long list of applicants. Ron also established the SAAFoST President's Award to honour companies that had supported SAAFoST in its vision and mission and he made the first award at the 2003 Congress banquet.

MR NIGEL SUNLEY



Nigel first became involved in the early 1980s when working for what was then Cerebos Food Corporation. He was encouraged by Hector de Muelenaere, to become a SAAFoST member and soon joined the Natal Branch Committee. He then became Branch Chairman and was involved firstly, in the 1989 Congress scientific programme and then as Chairman of the 1995 Congress Organising Committee. He moved from Durban to Johannesburg in 1998 and joined the Northern Branch Committee and subsequently became President in 2003. During his presidency Maurice Kort retired as National Secretary and Van der Walt and Company was appointed as SAAFoST's National Secretariat, the first student career roadshows were introduced and SAAFoST successfully won a bid against tough opposition to hold the 15th IUFOST World Congress of Food Science & Technology in Cape Town during August 2010 (of which he was Organising Committee Chairman). He subsequently served on the Governing Council of IUFOST.

MR DAVID WATSON



David qualified as a Chemical Engineer and has spent more than thirty years in the food industry. He is a major shareholder and Managing Director of his own business, initially known as Nutritional Foods and, more recently, renamed Sunspray Food Ingredients (Pty) Ltd.

He was always interested in the activities of SAAFoST and became seriously involved in the organisation when he was asked to facilitate a strategic planning meeting of SAAFoST in 2001. He subsequently served as Chairman of the Northern Branch from 2003 - 2005 and as President from 2005 - 2007. He strengthened the business aspects and efficiency upon which the organisation is run and this was put to good effect in the organisation of the very successful 2010 IUFOST World Congress where David was responsible for the marketing portfolio

MRS ROSIE MAGUIRE



Rosie graduated from Queen Elizabeth College, University of London with a BSc (Hons) Food Science. She worked for Metal Box Research and Development, Associated British Foods and Unilever Central Research in the UK before moving to South Africa. She ultimately established her own company "In Essence".

She has been involved with SAAFoST since 1987, then becoming a member of the Cape Branch Committee (2001) and SAAFoST Council (since 2003). She was Congress Organising Chair in 2005 for the Stellenbosch Congress, and became the first female President in SAAFoST's

history in 2007.

Rosie worked hard to raise the international profile of SAAFoST and has been a strong supporter of student activities. During her extremely active time as president, the association hosted the IUFOST World Congress and she was responsible for organising a very successful Congress Exhibition and played an active role in securing sponsors.

DR GUNNAR SIGGE



Dr Gunnar Sigge was inaugurated as President at the SAAFoST 50th birthday celebration dinner at Nederberg Estate in 2010. Gunnar graduated from the Food

Science Department of Stellenbosch University, joined the staff and completed his PhD there. He was elected to the Cape Branch Committee in 1997 and was appointed to the Council in 2001 as a Cape Branch representative. He held the position of Head of the Department of Food Science during his Presidential term of office.