

January 24, 2022

Dear IASR membership,

It is with profound sadness that I let you know about the passing of our dear colleague and friend, Dr. Ellen Laan on January 22, 2022.

Dr. Laan was a member of the IASR since 1994, the year she obtained her PhD in Psychology from the University of Amsterdam. She joined the Executive of IASR from 2010-2013, having served her term as president in 2012. Over the years, she was an active participant in IASR, serving on several conference planning committees, as a judge, and as a regular attendee and participant at every annual meeting. Most recently, she was a member of the advisory group of IASR's Code of Conduct to develop a reporting, investigating, and decision-making protocol in cases of misconduct.

In more recent years, Dr. Laan turned her attention increasingly to advocacy—a domain that many scientists shy away from for fear of negative repercussions on their academic productivity and funding. Dr. Laan was keen to push the conversation on women's sexual pleasure, which she identified as being absent from the larger discourse of sexual health and well-being. She was a member of the Expert Consultation on Sexual Pleasure for the World Association of Sexual Health, which fought to include sexual pleasure in the definition of sexual rights.

In the last few months, she received the Knight in the Order of the Netherlands, a Societal Impact Award for 2021 from Amsterdam University Medical Center, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the European Society for Sexual Medicine. Beyond these accolades, many of us knew Dr. Laan as someone who was passionate, dedicated, inspiring, and tireless in the field of sexual health research. She was also kind, compassionate, and collaborative. Dr. Laan has had a profound influence on countless junior colleagues and trainees.

Our thoughts go out to her husband, Mario, and her daughters, and to her many friends within and beyond the IASR.

We will honour Ellen more fully at our meeting in Iceland in July 2022.

We will miss you, Ellen,

Sincere regards,
Lori Brotto

Lori A. Brotto PhD, R Psych (she/her)

Professor, Faculty of Medicine | Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Executive Director, Women's Health Research Institute | Canada Research Chair in Women's Sexual Health
The University of British Columbia | Diamond Health Care Centre
2775 Laurel Street, 6th Floor, Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 1M9



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