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DR. JANE K.A. COOK

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*About the cover*

**DR. JANE K.A. COOK (1939)**

Dr. Jane Cook was born in Derby in central England but moved to Louth, a small town in rural Lincolnshire, when she was 7 years old. She was fortunate to have great biology teacher who stimulated her interest in biological sciences, which in combination with reading books like “Man, microbes and malady” by John Drew stimulated her to matriculate at Bristol University in 1957 to read Microbiology with Physiology as the subsidiary subject.

After graduating in 1960, Jane joined May & Baker, a pharmaceutical company in Essex, where she worked on the development of sulfa drugs to treat bacterial pneumonia. During the 3 years at May & Baker, she became interested in avian respiratory diseases. In 1963, she joined the Houghton Poultry Research Station (HPRS) near St Ives, Cambridgeshire to work on infectious bronchitis virus (IBV). During this period Jane developed a tracheal organ culture approach to isolate IBV strains, which was a major breakthrough compared to the traditional method of isolating the virus in embryonated chicken eggs. Jane used tracheal organ cultures successfully for the isolation of avian metapneumovirus (aMPV), the causative agent of rhinotracheitis in turkeys and an important pathogen in the complex respiratory disease seen in broilers as well as affecting egg production in breeder flocks. She used one of the isolates to develop a live attenuated vaccine for chickens.

Jane served as acting head of the Department of Microbiology of HPRS pending the closing of HPRS and relocation of the research to the Compton Institute in 1992. For family reasons, she decided to stay in Huntingdon. Fortunately, Intervet had a laboratory close to HPRS and Jane was invited to join Intervet enabling her to continue her research on IBV and aMPV. She was able to use a particular IBV strain (4/91), isolated and partially attenuated during her time at HPRS, for the development of a new vaccine. This vaccine combined with Massachusetts greatly improves protection against many of the IBV variants.

In the 1980s, Jane was awarded the Brian Hanson Award (for best paper at a BVPA meeting) and in 1994 received the Tom Newman International award.

Jane retired in 2000 but kept active as a consultant, involvement with the Houghton Trust, and, until the end of 2022, as an Associate Editor of Avian Pathology.

I thank Dr. Cook for adding important information to the text.

Submitted by K.A. Schat