

= Barend Joseph Stokvis =

Barend Joseph Stokvis (Dutch pronunciation : [ˈbaːrˌnt ˈjoːsˌf ˈstɔkˌfɪs] ; 16 August 1834 ? 28 September 1902) was a physician and professor of physiology and pharmacology at the University of Amsterdam . He is mainly remembered for his description of acute porphyria in 1889 . As a researcher in chemical pathology he made contributions to the understanding of a number of diseases , such as diabetes . He was also considered an expert in tropical medicine and a celebrated medical educator . He authored an influential pharmacology textbook . Stokvis was one of a number of prominent 19th century Jewish physicians in the Netherlands .

= = Early life and education = =

Stokvis was born to Rachel Wittering and Joseph Barend Stokvis , Jr . , a Jewish physician and obstetrician in Amsterdam . He studied medicine in Amsterdam and at the University of Utrecht under Franciscus Donders and Jacobus Schroeder van der Kolk , obtaining a doctorate on a dissertation on hepatic glucose production in diabetes in 1856 . His thesis appeared shortly after the publication of related work by the French physiologist Claude Bernard . Stokvis may also have been influenced by the chemist Gerardus Mulder in Amsterdam . Subsequently he travelled to Paris and Vienna (and possibly Prague) , before establishing himself in medical practice in Amsterdam . He continued his medical research under the physiologists Adriaan Heynsius , Wilhelm Kühne and Thomas Place . In 1867 , the Brussels Academy awarded a gold medal to Stokvis for an essay on the development of albuminuria , a kidney disorder in which the protein albumin can be detected in the urine .

= = Scientific career = =

In 1874 he was appointed as lecturer in medicine at the Athenaeum Illustre in medicine , pathology and pharmacodynamics , and became a professor when the Athenaeum received university status and became the Municipal University of Amsterdam . He served as rector magnificus (dean) of the university in the 1880s .

His prolific output , mainly in chemical pathology , included research into the metabolism of glycogen , uric acid , and urea ; studies into an epidemic of cholera in Amsterdam ; the toxicity of *Atropa belladonna* (deadly nightshade) ; various pigmented substances in the blood (including porphyrins) ; the nature of the heart sounds ; and several contributions in tropical medicine , in which he was considered an expert . He also described the blood disorder methaemoglobinaemia .

In 1889 , he reported on a case of acute illness provoked by the newly introduced hypnotic drug sulfonmethane , also known as sulfonal . Stokvis observed the unusual dark red urine , discovered that it contained porphyrins , and coined the name " porphyria " for the condition . The patient 's underlying condition was probably acute intermittent porphyria , which can be provoked by medicines . Similar reports by others followed shortly after , and it was soon found that other drugs could also induce porphyria attacks . The Swedish chemist Olof Hammarsten further analysed red compound found in the urine of the patients with sulfonal @-@ related porphyria attacks , labeling it " haematoporphyrin " . Porphyrins were first identified by the German chemist Felix Hoppe @-@ Seyler in 1871 , and derive their named from the Greek for purple ? porphuros ? after to their purple color .

Stokvis ' most important work was judged by his contemporaries to be his three @-@ volume " Voordrachten over Geneesmiddelenleer " (" Speeches on Pharmacology " , soon translated into the French " Leçons de Pharmacotherapie ") , which appeared shortly before his death .

= = Other activities = =

Stokvis was close to the influential German pathologist Rudolf Virchow . In 1879 Stokvis was elected a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences , and he served as vice

@-@ president of the Academy in 1896 . He was awarded received an honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Edinburgh in 1884 . Stokvis also chaired the 1883 International Colonial Medicine Congress in Amsterdam . He was one of the founders (in 1896) of Janus , an international journal for the history of medicine . He is regarded as an illustrious member of Holland 's medical dynasty , and as a pioneer in the fields of chemical physiology and chemotherapy . Together with Samuel Siegmund Rosenstein , professor of medicine in Leiden , he was a supporter of Aletta Jacobs , the first woman to qualify as a doctor in the Netherlands .

In addition to his medical work , Stokvis also succeeded his father as president of the charitable Jewish Poor Board (Nederlandsch Israëlitisch Armbestuur) , was a member @-@ founder of the Dutch Jewish Institute for the Insane , and a board member of the Jewish Institute for the Aged and the Amsterdam Jewish Hospital (Centraal Israëlitische Ziekenverpleging) . He was also a patron of the arts .

= = Personal life = =

In 1865 he married Julia Elisabeth , the sister of his close friend , the banker and philanthropist A.C. Wertheim . They had two children . He was an ardent swimmer , and wrote poetry under several pseudonyms . He spoke several languages . He died in Amsterdam shortly after returning from a holiday in Ireland , from what was thought to be myocarditis .