

**Credo**

Jaap van der Wal MD PhD worked until February 2012 as senior lecturer (associate professor) in Anatomy and Embryology at the University of Maastricht, Holland. He now is retired from university and dedicates himself completely to his project Embryo in Motion. Since his graduation as medical doctor (1973) he became anatomist-embryologist and specialized first in the functional anatomy of the locomotor system. In 1998 he graduated as MD in this field by a dissertation on a 'trans-anatomical' view on human proprioception (sense for posture and locomotion). He functioned as researcher and teacher at various university institutes for

Anatomy and Embryology in Holland. Gradually he also developed as teacher in Philosophy of Science and in Medical Anthropology with themes like What moves us? What motivates us to move? What has natural science to tell about that? "My passion however was and still is Human Embryology. The human body is a **process**, developing and functioning in time. The embryo moves, behaves in forms. The fields of study Kinesiology and Embryology meet at the domains of movement, motion and form. Methodologically they join in the (Goethean) phenomenological approach of Dynamic Morphology. For me Dynamic Morphology appeared to be the key for bridging between the domain of 'natural science' and 'spiritual science'. I apply the method of dynamic morphology to understand what we actually are doing as human beings when we are embryo. Science and religion, matter and spirit, body and mind, macrocosm and microcosm, creation and evolution meet each other in the phenomenal process of becoming human. With respect I can find in the human embryo cautious answers to questions as to the meaning of human existence. This approach offers a healing of our modern reductionistic view of ourselves as walking brain machines".

**Biography**

I am Jaap van der Wal. Officially: Jacob Cornelis van der Wal, MD PhD, born on the 17th of February 1947. In 1973 I graduated from medical school. After that I specialized in Anatomy and Embryology and lectured in these disciplines at the medical faculties of Utrecht and Maastricht (Holland) and at various paramedical training colleges (such as for physiotherapy, nursing and midwifery). I was active in medical research (clinical anatomy) and graduated as PhD in 1988. My main interest is Human Embryology along with everything related to this, such as evolution and genetics, and all that in context with philosophy of science. I regularly publish articles on these subjects e.g. I was co-editor of the Dutch report *Is there future in our DNA?* (1993).

Important sources of inspiration are the anthroposophy of Rudolf Steiner and the work of phenomenologists like Husserl, Merleau-Ponty and J. H. van den Berg, a Dutch phenomenological philosopher. But in particular it is by the phenomenological approach of Goethe that I manage to bridge the chasm between spirituality and humanities on the one hand and positivistic natural science on the other hand.

A third area, which has my interest for many years, is that of the human body. I published 'Lost Death', a critical essay about the current image of the body in medical science and in society.

At present I have retired from the University of Maastricht (Holland) and I function as free lance teacher at various training courses in the field of so-called 'complementary' medicine such as yoga-schooling, schooling for art therapy and ante-natal support, moreover the training in Osteopathy, Craniosacral Therapy and Polarity Medicine. Since 2001 I function as a free lance teacher on behalf of my company *Dynamension* to give seminars 'Embryo in Motion' for laymen as well as for professionally interested people as (medical) doctors, midwives and other therapists.

**Also look at my website: [www.embryo.nl](http://www.embryo.nl) (in Dutch, English and German)**

## CURRICULUM VITAE

- 1947 Born at Maarsseveen, Holland
- 1947 – 1965 Basic School and Secondary education, Holland
- 1965 – 1973 Medical study, University of Utrecht. MD diploma
- 1971 – 1979 Assistant Professor, University Utrecht, Dept. of Anatomy & Embryology, Utrecht, Holland
- 1979 – 1990 Assistant/Associate Professor, University Maastricht, Dept. of Anatomy & Embryology, Maastricht, Holland
- 1990 – 2001 Associate Professor, School for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Utrecht, Holland
- 2001 – 2006 Assistant/Associate Professor, University Maastricht, Department of Anatomy & Embryology, Maastricht, Holland
- 2006 – Senior Lecturer, University Maastricht, Dept. of Anat. & Embryology, Maastricht, Holland (part time one day/week)
- 2001 – Trainer and lectures in Phenomenological Embryology, Dynamension, Maastricht, Holland
- 1979 – 1988 Research on the organization of proprioception of the elbow region of the rat.
- 1988 Graduated as PhD on related thesis, University of Maastricht, Holland
- 1990 – 2001 Coordinator of the Curriculum for Master of Physiotherapy Leuven – Utrecht, Holland.
- 1968 – Married with E. M. A Ruitenberg (\* 1945)  
Father of four children (1969, 1975, 1978 and 1982)

## SHORT LIST OF RELATED PUBLICATIONS by JAAP VAN DER WAL ([English publications indicated](#))

Wal, Jaap van der, 2000, De kracht van het stille zijn – Over de aard van ons embryonale bestaan, gebonden uitgave van een essay, **ISBN 90-806037-2-4**.

Wal, Jaap van der, 2000, De spraak van het embryo – Een fenomenologie van het embryonale bestaan, gebonden uitgave van een artikel, **ISBN 90-806037-3-2**. [English version available on www.embryo.nl](#)

Wal, Jaap van der, 2003, Der Mensch als Embryo zwischen Himmel und Erde, *In*: Jaap van der Wal, Michaele Glöckler u.a., Dynamische Morphologie und Entwicklung der menschlichen Gestalt, Bausteine einer anthroposophischen Physiotherapie 1, Kongresband No.6, herausgegeben von der medizinischen Sektion der Freien Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft am Goetheanum, Dornach: 28 – 197,3. Auflage, ISBN 978-3-7235-1183-1. [With extensive English abstracts](#).

Wal, Jaap van der, 2003, Chapter 4: [Dynamic Morphology and Embryology](#), *In*: Bie, Guus van der and Huber, Machteld (eds.), Foundations of Anthroposophical Medicine, Floris Books, Edinburgh, ISBN 0-86315-417-4: 87 – 161.

Wal, J.C. van der, 2004, Human Conception: How to overcome Reproduction - a phenomenological approach of human fertilization, Energy & character Vol. 33 September 2004. [English edited version available on www.embryo.nl](#)

Wal, J.C. van der, 2006, Der Inkarnierende Embryo, *In*: Liem, T. (ed.), Morphodynamik in der Osteopathie, Hippokrates Verlag, Stuttgart: 116 - 134, ISBN 3-8304-5340-X. ([English edition in preparation, 2009](#))

Wal, J.C. van der en Bie, G.H. van der, 2006, 2005, Grundzüge einer phänomenologischen Embryologie, *In*: Krens, I. und Krens, H. (eds), Das Pränatale Kind – Grundlagen einer vorgeburtlichen Psychologie, VandenHoeck & Ruprecht Verlag, Berlin: 33 - 48, 2. Auflage, ISBN 3-525-45233-0. [English version available on www.embryo.nl as Highlights of a phenomenological embryology](#)

Wal, Jaap van der, 2007, [The Speech of the Embryo](#), *In*: Michael J. Shea, PhD, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy, Vol. 1, North Atlantic Books, Berkeley California, USA: 83 - 102, ISBN 978-1-55643-591-1, and  
Wal, Jaap van der, 2007, [Human Conception: How to Overcome Reproduction?](#), *In*: Michael J. Shea, PhD, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy, Vol. 1, North Atlantic Books, Berkeley California, USA: 137 - 154, ISBN 978-1-55643-591-1