

## **Nicholas Larkins (1947–2026): The Visionary Behind AKL Research & Development**

Dr. Nicholas “Nick” Larkins BVSc DSc MRCVS, a pioneering bio-scientist and co-founder of AKL Research & Development Ltd, passed away on January 29, 2026 after a short illness.

He trained and practiced as a veterinarian in Australia, South America, the USA and UK. His scientific curiosity led him to develop many of the nutritional formulas which lay behind the success of NAF, the largest equine supplement company in Europe. As part of his equine work Nick collaborated with many research institutions around the globe and was an advisor to several Olympic teams.

Nick’s later career was defined by his transition into translational pharmacology, where he applied his profound understanding of natural active compounds to drug development.

Nick’s scientific rigour and "back to nature" philosophy became the bedrock of AKL Research & Development Ltd. Moving beyond his early and enduring success in equine health, he focused his intellect on developing novel pharmaceutical solutions for unmet human needs. He was the architect behind AKL's lead assets: TAKL, designed for respiratory diseases, and APPA, a novel treatment for osteoarthritis.

Though he passed shortly before the release of the latest data validating the therapeutic potential of APPA, Nick’s research established the evidence-based foundation upon which the company stands. He is survived by his wife, Miranda, and children, Harry and Amelia. The scientific community has lost a true innovator whose work bridges the gap between natural compounds and modern medicine.