

OBITUARY

Professor Sture Lidén 1933–1997



Sture Lidén passed away on April 18, 1997. He was Chairman of the Department of Ear, Eye and Skin Diseases at the Karolinska Institute and worked as usual with great energy in the Department of Dermatology until the last days of March. A malignant cancer, which had been troubling him for two years, then suddenly decreased his strength.

Sture Lidén received his MD in 1961 and PhD in 1967, both at the University of Uppsala. His thesis and first papers focused on the mononuclear cell infiltrate in allergic contact dermatitis in guinea pigs and the cell migration from the bone marrow to the skin, lymph nodes and spleen. A new lymphoid-cell protein with relation to delayed hypersensitivity could be isolated. An often cited article and a breakthrough in our thinking was an article together with K.E. Fichtelius and O. Groth: "The Skin: a First Level Lymphoid Organ".

In 1971 he was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology of the University of Umeå in northern Sweden. His judiciousness and administrative talent were of great use when he was later appointed Dean of the Medical Faculty. His scientific work then began to focus on genetic markers for psoriasis and the migration-stimulating effect of polymorphonuclear leukocytes. Multiple osteomyelitis in patients with pustulosis palmoplantaris was described as a new entity. A paper which had a great impact on nervous musicians was published 1974 as a Letter to the Lancet: "Beta-blocking Agents in the Treatment of Catecholamine-induced Symptoms in Musicians".

In June 1982 Sture Lidén was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology of the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm. With his co-workers he made important contributions to various areas, such as chromosomal aberration and cancer risks, effect of Grenz rays on

allergic contact dermatitis and skin problems in video display terminal users. With the formation of larger units, he became Chairman of the Department of Ear, Eye and Skin at the Karolinska Institute in 1993. With his collaborators in Stockholm he continued research in areas such as "sensitivity to electricity", which had become a new environmental epidemic in Sweden. The conclusion from provocation test was that the allegedly sensitive patients did not react to electromagnetic fields. Other studies of great interest dealt with the importance of interleukin expression in normal and inflamed human skin.

Sture was an excellent leader for the departments he served and a good and knowledgeable doctor for his patients. His perspicacity made it always important to listen to him when he talked at various meetings. He served from 1978 to 1980 as President for the Swedish Dermatological Society and from 1980 to 1993 as Secretary General for the Nordic Dermatological Association. Sture was active in a large number of medical commissions and scientific foundations. From 1972 he served on the Editorial Board of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* and often as a reviewer for the journal, where he gave most valuable and prompt answers. From 1995 he worked as Assistant Editor and was of great help to our journal. We, his colleagues, greatly regret the loss of a faithful friend and will always remember with gratitude the moments during the years passed we had the opportunity to spend with Sture and his wife Elisabeth.

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Editors of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*.