

## Announcement

### In Memoriam Hans Brynger

ESOT joins colleagues and scientific organizations in honouring and mourning the loss of Professor Hans Brynger, MD, PhD, a distinguished transplant surgeon and clinical researcher.

Hans Brynger is well known as a pioneer in the field of organ transplantation and was one of the cofounders of the European Society for Organ Transplantation.

Hans was born in the northern part of Sweden in 1936 and started his academic education in 1955, studying odontology in Stockholm. In 1956, he switched to medical school at the University of Gothenburg. He was very actively involved in various student activities, such as writing plays for the students and playing in the student orchestra, skills he shared with his friends later in life. Some of his closest friends in later life were actually student fellows from this period.

From 1965 on he took his first steps as a young general surgeon in two county hospitals outside Gothenburg, and in 1970 he started his career at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital at the Department of Surgery I. During these years, he also married Britt and the young couple was soon blessed with two twin boys born in 1964 and a daughter born in 1966. At Sahlgrenska, he teamed up with Professor Lars-Erik Gelin (also called 'Charlie' by his friends). Here, he got his training in transplantation surgery which at that point was in the really early days. Lars-Erik Gelin had a broad network of international collaborators among the pioneers of kidney transplantation and Hans was introduced to this network. In 1975, he finished his PhD studies on experimental pancreas transplantation in dogs, and a few years later was appointed Associate Professor of Surgery. Already early in his clinical career, in 1972 or 1973, he also performed clinical pancreas transplants.

When Professor Lars-Erik Gelin died in 1980, Hans became the Head of the Transplant Unit. At that point, Sahlgrenska University Hospital had one of the largest and most experienced transplant units in Europe and in the world, performing some 150 kidney transplantations, 15 pancreas transplantations, and 20–30 liver transplantations a year.

In 1981, the first Lars-Erik Gelin memorial symposium on clinical kidney transplantation took place in Gothenburg. During and after that meeting, Hans Brynger, Raimund Margreiter (Innsbruck), Georg Uhlschmid (Zürich), Walter Land (Munich) and Gerhard Opelz (Heidelberg) discussed the idea of a European Society of Organ Transplantation. They all became co-founders of ESOT, and in 1987 Hans hosted the third ESOT Congress in Gothenburg. Professor Brynger served on the editorial board of several international journals, like *Transplantation Proceedings*, *Nephrology*, *Dialysis and Transplantation*, *Clinical Transplantation* and *Transplant International*. He also was invited as lecturer in countries all over the world.

Hans encouraged many young medical students to start a career in the field of transplantation and was the main scientific tutor of several PhD students. He always had a good way of encouraging young students when they needed it most. All the way through his career he also followed the tradition of Lars-Erik Gelin, characterized by enthusiasm and humour within the department.

Professor Brynger ended his professional career as a transplant surgeon in 1990 when he took on another career being responsible for 'foreign affairs' regarding patients, post graduate training and projects in health care planning and management within the fields of medicine and odontology. Parallel with this activity he still maintained contact with many of his international colleagues and was frequently invited as a lecturer.

Hans will be missed and remembered by all his colleagues at the Transplant Institute at Sahlgrenska University Hospital as well as by all of his international colleagues in the field of organ transplantation.

*Michael Olausson  
Professor and Chairman  
Transplant Institute  
Sahlgrenska University Hospital  
Gothenburg  
Sweden*