Professor Jan E Wahlberg 1932-2005



Professor emeritus Jan E Wahlberg has passed away at the age of 73 years.

Jan E Wahlberg grew up in Eskilstuna and obtained his degrees in medicine and dermatology at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. Early on he became interested in occupational dermatology and allergy, and established himself as one of Sweden's most renowned occupational dermatologists. Jan E Wahlberg defended his thesis "Percutaneous absorption of metal compounds" in 1966 and became associate professor at the Karolinska Institutet 1967. He was later appointed professor of Occupational dermatology at the National Board of Occupational Safety and Health in Stockholm.

His position as professor, combined with a clinical appointment as dermatologist at the Karolinska Hospital, paved the way for a long career in research and the clinical field. His main areas of research were skin irritation, contact dermatitis and allergy, and methods to assess these. His thoughts about, and attitude to, research were conveyed to a number of graduate students who wrote their theses under his tutelage. Jan E Wahlberg has had a great influence on the prevention of contact dermatitis in Sweden through his work in an expert capacity for various governmental and private organizations that work with allergy problems in society, where his research and clinical experience could be transformed to practical use.

During his years as a dermatologist Jan E Wahlberg established a broad contact network. He was active member of the International Contact Dermatitis Research Group (ICDRG) and of its European counterpart (EECDRG). In Sweden he was the founder of the Swedish Contact

Dermatitis Research Group and of the annual Occupational Dermatology meetings, which are much appreciated as a forum for informal exchange of knowledge on topics dealing with occupational dermatology.

After his retirement Jan E Wahlberg was still active and scientifically productive and published several papers as well as book chapters.

There are many of us in the Swedish and international communities of dermatologists that knew and worked with Jan E Wahlberg, learned much from him and acquired his view on research founded on clinical practice.

Anders Boman Magnus Lindberg Berndt Stenberg