

Ove Groth 1922–2008



Professor Ove Groth, Linköping, Sweden, has passed away suddenly at 85 years of age. He was born in Arvidsjaur in the north of Sweden and received his medical training at the Karolinska Institute. His career began with three years at the departments of dermatology and internal medicine at St Göran's Hospital in Stockholm, followed by five years of internal medicine in Eskilstuna.

In 1957 he joined Nils Thyresson in Uppsala, who was organizing a new department of dermatology and venereology with teaching and training of medical students. Here Ove became a respected and popular teacher and mentor, often demonstrating that skin diseases could be the tip of an iceberg of other internal diseases. His holistic and compassionate approach to the patients was much appreciated by his students.

Patients were only one side of his activities, however; he soon became a member of the Royal Lymphatic Society of Uppsala and became engaged in research into contact allergy in guinea pigs. Radioactive labelling of lymphocytes was used, before the concept of T and B cells was established, to demonstrate the trafficking of lymphocytes from the lymphoid organs to the skin, as well as recirculation of lymphocytes between the

lymphoid organs and effector sites in the skin. In subsequent years he also explored the mechanisms for modulating allergic and irritant contact dermatitis with various cytotoxic drugs, both systemically and topically.

Ove Groth was recruited to the new medical faculty at Linköping University in 1966 to organize an academic dermatology department. Through his positive and friendly attitude to colleagues and students he created a staff in whom learning and teaching of dermatology in an academic atmosphere was combined with genuine clinical skills. He was an important promoter of the educational approach of the Linköping medical faculty, realizing the need for renewal and reform.

After his retirement he participated in the life of his old department and continued to encourage the professional and scientific development of his younger colleagues. He will be long remembered by friends and colleagues all over Scandinavia.

PROFESSOR OVE BÄCK

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