

## Nils Thyresson 1915–2008



The previous head of the Dermatology departments in Uppsala and Stockholm, and the past editor of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*, Professor Emeritus Nils Thyresson, sadly died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2008, only a few weeks before his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Nils Thyresson received his basic medical training at Uppsala University and then started his career in dermatology in Stockholm at the Karolinska Institutet, where he was appointed specialist in Dermatology and Venereology in 1952. Already during his training years in dermatology did he become interested in the occupational and environmental aspects of dermatology and he made a major contribution to the new law on occupational injury insurance that became effective in 1954. He completed his PhD degree at the Karolinska Institute in 1951 and became Associate Professor of Dermatology and Venereology, after which he moved to Uppsala University to set up its first dermatology department in 1955. Three years later he was appointed Professor of Dermatology and Venereology in Uppsala and soon established an exemplary university clinic that attracted numerous young doctors, many of whom eventually became Heads and Professors of Dermatology around the country. Nils Thyresson was the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Uppsala University from 1962 to 1966. In 1968 he was appointed Professor of Dermatology and Venereology at the Karolinska Institutet, where he served as Head of the Dermatology department until his retirement in 1981. Nils Thyresson was a visionary leader and early on he engaged in patient associations and became the first medical and scientific advisor for the Swedish Psoriasis Association. During this period he was Secretary General of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and served on the Boards

of many societies and journals around the world, for which he was awarded the Marchionini Gold Medal at the World Congress of Dermatology in Berlin in 1987.

Nils Thyresson became the Editor of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* in 1969 after Sven Hellerström and continued to hold this position until 1987, i.e. 7 years after his retirement, when he returned to Uppsala. During his 18 years as Editor of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* he developed the journal in an excellent way and *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* became firmly established as an international journal. After retirement, his interest in medical history manifested in several books; such as the history of venereology "Från Franzoser till Aids", and the history of the Swedish Society of Dermatology and Venereology.

Nils Thyresson will be remembered as an outstanding physician and scientist, and a skilful organizer and administrator with a tremendous working capacity. His personal characteristics were a combination of bright intellect, honesty and reliability. He was also a very friendly person who will be remembered for years to come.

Despite advancing age his intellect was intact and sparkling and he kept in continuous and close contact with us his former colleagues and friends.

Nils Thyresson closest relatives are his two daughters, Ingrid and AnneMaria, and his son Håkan, who is a practising dermatologist in Boston.

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