

Celebrating Anders Vahlquist in Uppsala, Sweden

HANNA NORSTED, PhD, SCIENTIFIC WRITER

Acta Dermato-Venereologica, S:t Johannesgatan 22A, SE-753 12 Uppsala, Sweden.

E-mail: hanna.norsted@medicaljournals.se



A meeting was held on 20 September 2013 to celebrate the career of Professor Anders Vahlquist, who was leaving his position at the Department of Medical Sciences at Uppsala University after a long and successful career at a clinical level as well as in academia. The day, planned by Dr Ola Rollman and coworkers, was spent at Uppsala University Hospital where Anders has worked since 1976 up to now, with an interruption of 9 years in Linköping in between.

Invited speakers had come from near and far to pay respect to Anders. *Professor Jonathan Rees* from the University of Edinburgh held a thought-provoking lecture entitled 'From Gutenberg to Zuckerborg', where he discussed teaching and learning in dermatology. He was joined by *Dr Lisa Naysmith* from the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Edinburgh, who showed encouraging results from her skin cancer clinic where they always perform full body skin examinations, which greatly increase the chance to diagnose malignant melanoma. *Professor Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen* from Nykøbing, discussed genetics in dermatology by showing clinical pictures of genodermatoses, such as Papillon-Lefevre syndrome. The discovery that this syndrome was caused by a gene defect deciphered important pathogenic mechanisms, not only in the skin (keratoderma) but also in extracutaneous tissues, such as the oral cavity.

After lunch Anders reminisced about his research career that spans over 4 decades. For an extract of his talk, see page xx.

Many of the good friends and co-workers Anders mentioned in his talk were present and shared their own anecdotes of working with Anders: *Professor Berit Berne*, *Dr Marie Virtanen* and *Associate Professor Hans Törmä* from Uppsala University, *Professors Inger Rosdahl*, *Chris Anderson* and *Dr Birgitta Stymne* from Linköping



Torborg Hoppe, Anna-Karin Andersson, Hao Li, Eva Hagforsen and Inger Pihl-Lundin at the coffee break.

University, *Professor Torbjörn Egelrud* from Umeå University, and *Professor Mona Ståhle* from Karolinska Institutet. They entertained us with stories of working in old-fashioned laboratories, struggling with scientific hypotheses and spending many late nights at the lab. However, Inger Rosdahl also acknowledged the great advantage of having a supporting spouse, when she paid tribute to Anders's wife Dr Carin Vahlquist.

Anders's research has made him renowned both internationally and in Sweden and although his retirement marks the ending of an era, we know that many research projects are still ongoing and he will contribute hopefully many years more. Furthermore, we at *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* are happy that he will continue as our Editor-in-Chief. During his 15 years as Editor-in-Chief he has been a driving force for making the *Acta* an open access journal, as well as increasing the impact factor from 1.433 to 3.487.



Three of the international lecturers: Lisa Naysmith, Jonathan Rees, and Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen.



Anders Vahlquist looking back at his 45 years of research.