



**Stockholm 2 April 2020: Professor Folke Sjöqvist peacefully passed away on March 30**

We miss our teacher, director, collaborator and friend Folke who died on March 30th after a longer period of illness. He is survived by his wife Margareta, four children with families, friends and colleagues in Stockholm, Sweden and worldwide.

Folke was born in 1933 and became licensed MD in 1959. He defended his thesis on cholinergic transmission in the autonomic nervous system in 1962 at Karolinska Institutet. He was a guest researcher in the US at the legendary Bernhard Brodie drug metabolic laboratory at the National Institutes of Health and studied methods for systematic clinical trials at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Folke was appointed full professor in clinical pharmacology at Linköping University in 1970, the first chair in Sweden. In 1972 he became professor in clinical pharmacology at Karolinska Institutet and director of clinical pharmacology at Huddinge University Hospital where he stayed until his retirement in 1998.

Folke was crucial in the establishment of the discipline clinical pharmacology in Sweden and had a major influence in its development around the world. Above 100 scientists defended their thesis during his period as Chair. The division became an international Mecca for research and clinical training with more than 100 guest researchers during his period. He was a pioneer in using twin studies to understand genetic differences in drug metabolism and he contributed to Karolinska Institutet's world leading breakthroughs in clinical and molecular understanding of the variability in the effects of drugs between subjects and ethnic groups. He was important for applying therapeutic drug monitoring and pharmacogenetics as clinical tools for individually targeted drug dosage. He initiated the Drug Information Centre that became an appreciated healthcare service. As interested in sports he was crucial in the foundation of the Doping Laboratory in Sweden. Folke was always highly interested in teaching and had leading roles in the MD curriculum organization. Clinically he fought for improved continuous medical education and contributed to give Drug and Therapeutics Committees and pharmacoepidemiology a vital role within the healthcare system in Sweden. For years he had leadership positions at Karolinska Institutet and was a member of its Nobel Assembly. He was

known as an inspiring leader within IUPHAR (International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology) for decades. He received several doctorates, awards and prizes.

We remember Folke as a visionary, inspirational, powerful and caring leader. He guarded all his staff and collaborators irrespective of background or position. Folke had a strong research mind to explore and explain molecular mechanisms for variations between patients in therapeutic and adverse effects of drugs. He understood intuitively how experimental methods and drug assays could be applied clinically to make a change. Folke always argued for the importance of clinical pharmacology making a difference in healthcare. Folke started an international research environment where all his staff and collaborators contributed and lifelong friendships started. Folke has been an inspiration and mentor for us and numerous colleagues. We will remember his curiosity, enthusiasm, care and energy. Folke was long active and dedicated to our work and development for years after retirement. We will keep him and his excellent achievements in memory.

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| Professor Marja-Liisa Dahl                               | Senior lecturer Georgios Panagiotidis      |
| Director clinical pharmacology services                  | Chair of Division of Clinical Pharmacology |
| Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital |  |

Ulf Bergman, Leif Bertilsson, Erik Eliasson, Lars L Gustafsson, Magnus Ingelman-Sundberg,  
Anders Rane

Friends, colleagues, professors and senior/emiriti professors at Karolinska Institutet