

HOMAGE TO BENGT AND GUDRUN HAGBERG BY MARTEN KYLLERMAN

Bengt – challenge boundaries

1. Skidåkaren-Föreläsaren The skier-the Lecturer
2. 1942 - medical studies at Uppsala Akademiska Sjukhuset, 1946 travelled by bus with other young students through Hamburg devastated by war. 1947-8 chairman Uppsala Medical Student Association, 1950 MD. Started in paediatrics with Prof Bo Vahlquist. 1953 PhD "Studies on the plasma transport of iron" influenced by Profs Torsten Ekbohm (UAS), Tore Broman (Gbg), Wohlfart (Lund), Jan Waldenström (Malmö), Sven Brandt (Copenhagen).
3. 1960s practising paediatric neurology in the northern half of Sweden, first case of "mb Vesslan" diagnosed. In a few years there were 15 more cases. Morbus Vesslan or the Vesslan disease is what Bengt and his co-worker Olle Hansson called their first case of Rett Syndrome. Vessla means weasel, but the Swedish word was also similar to the surname of the young patient. 1964 Swedish Medical Research Council Appointment as paediatric neurology expert
4. Studies in hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, progressive metabolic disorders disease like Krabbe, MLD, infantile ceroid lipofuscinosis
5. 1969 first professor of paediatric neurology in the northern countries, 1971-90 Professor in paediatrics at Gothenburg University; unique triumvirate consisting of Bengt Hagberg, Patrick Sourander, professor in neuropathology, and Lars Svennerholm, professor in neurochemistry. Formed vital neuropediatric group in Gothenburg: Olle Hansson epilepsy, Ingrid Olsson and Anita Lundberg habilitation, Barbro Westerberg neuropathies, Mårten Kyllerman dyskinetic CP, Paul Uvebrant hemiplegic CP and epilepsy surgery, Mar Tulinius mitochondrial diseases and many other co-workers.
6. Organized a decentralized paediatric neurology and child habilitation service in Sweden. Initiated a long-term support service for children with severe handicapping conditions and multiple needs, and he also set up a centre for the parents and their children who had handicapping conditions of unknown origin.
7. 1970-7 Secretary General of the European Federation of Child Neurology Societies - 1st conference in Kungälv 1973-later to become EPNS - European Paediatric Neurology Society
8. 1947 married to Gudrun Wranne: they had 5 children. They performed together a series of important studies in paediatric epidemiology: infantile hydrocephalus, peripheral neuropathy, CP (1954-98), Standardised Mortality Ratio and, MMR - mild mental retardation.
9. It is amazing that this young man in fact became 92 years old!

I am indebted to Dr Ingrid Olsson Lindberg for her assistance in editing Marten's notes.