

Obituary

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It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of our colleague and friend Professor Jan Olofsson.

Jan Olofsson was trained in Malmö and Lund in Sweden and graduated at Lund University in 1967 and finished his PhD in Linköping in 1973. In 1986 he became Head of the ENT Department in Linköping. He moved to Norway in 1987 to become Professor and Chairman of Department of Otolaryngology at Haukeland University in Bergen, where he continued his work until 2010. From 1995 he was the leader of the Head and Neck Division including assistant CEO and Medical Director from 2000 until 2002. He retired as Head of Division of Oral Surgery and Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery in 2010.

Jan put the ENT department in Bergen, Norway, on the world map of laryngology. He was a skilled surgeon who could teach his residents the importance of anatomical dissection. His knowledge in ORL, general aspects of medicine and pathology was impressive as was his ability to find the best conclusions in difficult clinical situations.

His research initiated in Toronto where he spent nearly 2 years. He wrote chapters in textbook of the Centennial conference on laryngeal cancer, Toronto, 1974 and continued an impressive scientific production by proceedings, books and more than 250 publications in international journals. He was the editor of European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology for 15 years.

Jan also contributed significantly to the development of several international Otorhinology/Head Neck societies, e.g. as founding member and President of the Scandinavian Society for Head and Neck Oncology as well as the European Laryngological Society; In addition, founding member of the European Head and Neck Society and the European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery.

Jan was a wise man, carefully balancing the possible options before making his decisions. He understood the importance of an international collaboration between colleagues and societies. Without him, IFHNOS, the International Federation of Head and Neck national societies, could not have developed as it is now. He also contributed to the creation of the Confederation of European ORL-Head and Neck Surgery (CEORL-HNS).

We are grateful for his tremendous contribution to the ORL. We just hope that we will be able to walk in his steps. We wish to extend our sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues and wish them strength in these sad days.

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