

**BENGT TJERNBERG, MD (1921-2002):
GENTLEMAN-SCHOLAR-CONSUMMATE PHYSICIAN**

Bengt Tjernberg started his scientific career fifty years ago in the year I was born. His death on August 27, 2002, marked half a century of work, which was the basis of my own development.

Some thirty years ago, I was looking for an animal model on which I could examine the influence of encapsulated drugs on tumor metastases in lymph nodes.

Bengt Tjernberg was the only author who offered a whole system to perform this study. He induced a poorly differentiated carcinoma in rabbits by transplanting tumor cells into the muscles of the thigh. Subsequently he injected the contrast medium into the popliteal lymph node, or into the efferent lymphatic of this node. He published this paper in 1962 in *Acta Lymphologica* in Stockholm. He offered everything I needed. In this way, he became my personal most important reference. I met him in 1985 in Australia at the Xth International Congress of Lymphology. He was very delighted that somebody wanted to carry on his research, since the role of a pioneer in this area was mostly reserved for J.B. Kinmonth.

Indeed, in general, Kinmonth's name was a synonym for lymphography. Also my father, who used this technique routinely since the 1960s, never cited another name. Kinmonth himself made clear that the idea of staining lymph vessels by using Patent Blue V was developed by Hudack and McMaster already in 1933. This idea has been carried

forward until today, under a modern name "sentinel node identification." Kinmonth sent his paper "Lymphangiography in man" to "Clinical Sciences" in May 1951. Bengt Tjernberg wrote in 1956 that he made lymphographic experiments since March 1954, being unaware of the investigations of Kinmonth. Also in 1956, other groups (Gergely/Zsebök/Földi and Brun/Engeset) reported on the same subject, and still others (Servelle and Kaindl) independently conducted such studies. This race, which took place fifty years ago was an example of true scientific passion. One statement can be made anywhere: "*Bengt Tjernberg was a top researcher and a gracious gentleman. Now he is an historical figure.*"

Dr. Tjernberg was affiliated with the Department of Anatomy, University of Uppsala, Sweden (1956 and 1969) and Department of Gynecology, Radiumhemmet, Karolinska Sjukhuset, Stockholm, Sweden (1969).

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