

IN MEMORIAM

Arnfinn Engeset, MD
April 9, 1916 - April 8, 2016



Arnfinn Engeset, one of the founders of International Society of Lymphology, died on April 8, 2016, one day before his 100th birthday. He was educated at the University of Oslo in 1946. He worked some years at different hospitals in

Norway and as a private practitioner. He became a specialist in internal medicine 1953 and had different scholarships both in Norway and abroad particularly within cancer research. His main working place since 1961 up to retirement age was at the Norwegian Radium Hospital as a chief of the hematologic department. He was early interested in lymphology and related diseases. His dissertation from 1964 dealt with irradiation of Lymph Nodes and Vessels.

He wrote more than 100 publications on subjects related to the lymphatic system. Particularly remarkable was his work on visualization of the lymphatic system which he published together with Sven Bruun in 1956. This was some years after Kinmonth invented the x-ray lymphangiography. Engeset and Bruun differed from Kinmonth by using oil-soluble contrast, giving better visualization of lymph nodes.

Arnfinn Engeset received different international and national distinctions:

- 1997 Gold medal at the 7th International Congress of Lymphology, Florence, Italy
- 1984 Nicolay Copernicus medal from Polish Academy of Sciences
- 1987 Honorary member of the International Society of Lymphology

- 1988 Honorary Editor of Lymphology
- 2001 “Mile-stone” in Norwegian medicine, veneration from the national medical journal

He had many memberships and functions within different medical organizations both nationally and abroad. The complete list exceeds the purpose of this obituary.

Arnfinn Engeset had special qualification for a good doctor. He was deeply religious but in an open and inviting way. This supported his empathy towards patients and made also a base for a thorough and deep scientific interest. The list of his works show how decisive many of his articles were. Throughout his life and even in his elderly days he possessed an exploring mind and was open to new ideas. Besides his scientific works he wrote various articles in the daily newspapers on the relation between science and religion. He had remarkable ability to keep a sober balance between religious conviction and the scientific reality.

Personally, I had the pleasure to cooperate with him in publishing a monograph on lymphedema and the treatment of this disease, a book still in use for education of physiotherapists in Scandinavia. In spite of disagreement on some themes, our discussion was more like an advanced and successful conversation. I had a feeling of friendship that surpassed the dissent.

Arnfinn Engeset lived a rich and long life. He was a remarkable, friendly and intelligent human being, devoted to his scientific work. He was really an honorary member of the International Society of Lymphology.

Dr. Carl Fredrik Petlund
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