

News and Topics
The Swedish cooperation

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Michael spent some years at the Karolinska Institute in his early research career. Still he can speak some Swedish but not as well as his wife Esther can. At this time, he developed close ties to Swedish urology which resulted in several visits and joint projects.

The WHO Collaborating Center for Urologic Tumors in Stockholm, Sweden, was established in 1970. It operates within the Karolinska Institute and focuses on research, education, and collaboration in the field of urologic tumors. Regularly laboratory and clinical scientists from all over the world were invited to discuss the progress in understanding of the various aspects of the fundamental biology, epidemiology, genetics and biochemical characteristics of urological cancer. This information is crucial in defining and characterizing the various cancer forms and their global impact.

The former director Professor Lennart Andersson arranged 2 conferences, one on Premalignant Lesions in the Genito-urinary Tract 2000 and the second on Bladder Cancer 2008, both in Stockholm, Sweden. Michael was chairman together with myself on the bladder expert committee 2000 and we were both responsible for second conference.

Under the auspices of WHO it was easy to recruit the best experts from around the world. This was facilitated by the large network Michael had cultivated since many years.

The proceedings from the conferences were published as supplements in *The Scandinavian Journal of Nephrology and Urology* [1,2].

Michael and myself arranged the NY section of AUA visit in Stockholm 2001. Besides a scientific programme, there was a memorable social programme with a dinner at the Vasa museum and a Nobel dinner in the town hall followed by an Abba show. One day was spent in the historic town of Uppsala and ended by a Viking dinner in Old Uppsala.

One of my PhD students, Amir Sherif, had his dissertation 2003 at Uppsala University. The title was; *Experimental Diagnostics and Therapeutics of Invasive Urinary Bladder Cancer*. The 2 purposes of this thesis were to evaluate new diagnostic techniques of lymphnode staging in invasive bladder cancer and to evaluate the results of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in invasive bladder cancer. Michael served as the opponent in a very diligent and humoristic style.

He was invited as honorary ACTA lecturer at the annual Swedish Urology congress in Karlstad 2015. For me being a new chief editor of *The Scandinavian Journal of Urology* it was valuable to learn from Michaels extensive experience as chief editor of the journal *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations*. In conclusion we value the longstanding scientific cooperation with Michael and are thankful for a productive friendship.

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WHO bladder cancer panel Stockholm 2000



NY section AUA visit to Sweden 2001- viking dinner in Old Uppsala. Michael and professor Lennart Anderson



Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Per-Uno Malmström: Writing – review & editing.

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