

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS HENRIK A.L. HARTMANN

Henrik A.L. Hartmann, professor emeritus of pathology, died on December 28, 2007, at the age of 87. He was born in Sandeford, Norway on March 20, 1920 and received his junior college diploma (Artium) from Westheim School in Oslo in 1939. The onset of World War II forced an interruption of his studies. He fought in northern Sweden with a military unit on skis, the Norwegian Pioneer Troupe, and he was active in the Norwegian underground.

Following the war, Henrik attended medical school at the University of Oslo and received an MD degree in 1949. He subsequently immigrated to the United States and pursued a two-year residency in the Department of Pathology of the University of Wisconsin Medical School. From 1952 to 1955, he was an instructor in pathology. Henrik joined the faculty in 1955 and served as professor of pathology from 1967 until 2000, when he continued as an emeritus professor for several additional years.

From the start of his career, Dr. Hartmann committed himself to research, especially in the field of neurochemistry. He became a member of the International Society of Neurochemistry and regularly attended its meetings, presenting data obtained in collaboration with graduate students, or faculty members of other basic science departments, or with Swedish investigators. In 1958, he had accepted an invitation by Professor Holger Hydén to be a visiting scientist of the Institute of Neurobiology in Göteborg, Sweden. There he learned Professor J. Edström's new and quite laborious method of a quantitative RNA analysis of single neurons obtained from tissues by microdissection. Upon his return to Madison, Henrik established his own laboratory which received its support from grants from the U.S.P.H.S. and professional societies.

Henrik early on recognized that neuropathologists must enter the field of neurochemistry and molecular biology to remain competitive in neuroscience. However, he did not disregard the potential of morphological studies and gladly devoted time to establish an electron microscope laboratory for the Department of Pathology in the early 1960s to serve diagnostic and research purposes. An impressive number of papers on aging, intoxications, and degenerative diseases in both humans and experimental animals originated from Dr. Hartmann's laboratory. They were readily accepted by top scientific journals. The reports covered different nerve cell groups of the central nervous system with some preference, however, for motor neurons of the brain stem and spinal cord. Such neurons are especially affected in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and as Henrik and his post-doctoral student Sam Chou proved, in intoxication of rats with iminodipropionitrile (IDPN), a synthetic related to *lathyrus odoratus*. These similarities, demonstrated at a molecular and ultrastructural level, attracted international attention. During the last years of his life, Dr. Hartmann's interest turned to copper metabolism of the central nervous system. He and Dr. Merle Evenson, also a professor of pathology, came to the conclusion that the IDPN-induced neuroaxonal lesions were due to the chelating action on copper and that copper supplementation abolished this effect. In aggregate, Dr. Hartmann published over 100 papers and abstracts.

Henrik had a pleasant personality with high moral standards and a keen interest in the academic performance as well as the personal well being of the students under his tutelage. In teaching medical students, he preferred encounters in small groups, with the chance of discussions, to formal lectures "ex cathedra." He was always readily available for additional assistance. Dr. Hartmann taught in courses of autopsy pathology, neuropathology, and ultrastructural pathology. He gave clinical-pathological conferences for residents and faculty and conducted slide seminars attended also by members of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Hartmann shared his knowledge of medicine and neuropathology with a large number of pathology residents over the years. On the graduate level, he was the major professor to 12 PhD

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graduates from pathology. He was also very supportive of junior faculty members, impressing them with his common sense, good advice, and self-deprecating sense of humor.

Dr. Hartmann's accumulated practical experience from which he drew for his academic teaching derived from autopsy studies performed for the Medical School, the Madison V.A. Hospital, Mendota State Hospital, and the Wisconsin Central Colony.

Henrik was an avid outdoorsman, true to his Norwegian origin. He enjoyed long mountain hikes along the fjords, in the company of a cousin, and also running, biking, and cross-country skiing. He won numerous prizes in the Birkebeiner, an international cross-country ski race in Northern Wisconsin. Henrik loved classical music and was also an active member of the local Grieg Choir composed of male vocalists devoted to Norwegian folk music. He also loved poetry and had joined the Ygdrasil Literary Society in 1954. The family chose a poem by J.W. Goethe, entitled "Wanderer's Nachtlied II" ("The Wayfarer's Night Song II") for his memorial tribute. Henrik was happily married to Ann, a librarian, who, together with five children: Lisa, Tony, Jeni, Arne, and Signe, have survived him. He was a doting "Bestefar" (grandfather) whose relationship with a little grandson was memorialized in children's literature with "A Gift To Share," published by Ann in 1995.

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