

Symposium on Ion and Water Movements in Membranes

Address of Welcome

Martin H:son Holmdahl

Dear Torsten Teorell, Dear Gull,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We have come here to honour Torsten Teorell, who yesterday passed the respectable age of three quarter of a century. But it is certainly not only because of age we want to pay TT tribute. He still is and has always been a creative and active researcher - at least ever since he wrote about the law of mass action in the student examination test in Swedish language and thereafter met with Einar Hammarsten at the Karolinska Institute, and we all know him as a jolly good fellow.

It is my privilege as Rector of Uppsala university to extend to you, dear Torsten Teorell, the deeply felt gratitude of your Alma Mater Upsaliensis. You certainly have been one of her more beloved and appreciated children, and you have served her well ever since you came to her 45 years ago from her sister Carolina in Stockholm. When the former Rector of this university, Torgny Segerstedt, addressed you at the "retirement" dinner in 1972 he said: "Torsten Teorell is one of our internationally well known researchers and he still is in a very intensive period of his research". I can repeat this today - 8 years later.

If it is a privilege here as Rector to convey the greetings of the university, it is, however an even greater privilege to do so as one of your numerous pupils. Many of them, like me, have later tried to apply what we learned from you and your institute in different clinical fields, such as clinical physiology, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, anesthesiology etc., just to mention the ones represented here today. But some have continued as researchers in your own basic fields of physiology, physiological chemistry and biophysics.

One thing however, we all your grateful pupils have in common: Our admiration for your scientific tenacity, your open mind, your willingness to discuss our problems, your never failing encouragement and your constructive criticism.

You were young when you became professor and chairman, younger than some of your co-workers in the department. You immediately attracted a group of young people - and after this first group many of the best out of generations of Uppsala medical students. They all have found you as young, vital and brainy as the first group.

Your own research and your international contacts made the institute an attractive place for many scholars from abroad.

We are extremely happy to see here today as participants in this symposium on Ion and Water Movements in Membranes some of your former pupils from Sweden and abroad and some of your many famous international contacts, who all share with you your life-long interest in membranology. They certainly will describe, better than I can do, your own great contributions to this field. Let me only quote from prof Monnier's acceptance letter: "All those who work on membranes have to impregnate themselves with Teorell's papers. They cannot be ignored because they deal with fundamentals, which will always remain in membranology".

Dear Torsten Teorell, dear participants, I hope this symposium will be memorable for you and I wish you all a prosperous scientific meeting.

The program certainly promises it to be - again to quote from prof Monnier - "an excellent symposium, where many people join, who are friends". But one, who was invited, was not able, or more correctly expressed, allowed to join, prof Lev from Leningrad. Let me also quote from his letter: "Of course I am much interested in delivering a paper on single file diffusion in presence of Prof Teorell, who was one of the first in discussion meanings of flux ratio. But as you understand I have nothing to say except I am sorry and that I am not guilty for that inpoliteness of mine".

At the last conferment ceremony of this university, Prof Admoni, a colleague of Prof Lev at Leningrad university, was not able to be present to accept his honorary degree, awarded him from the faculty of philosophy. He gave the following message over the telephone: "Das ist nicht meine Schuld" Again: I am not guilty.

Let us remain friends in the international community of scholars and fight

for our rights of free communications and exchange. Let that be our contribution to the fight for human rights all over the world. Also this we discussed and learned in Torsten Teorell's school.

For Torsten Teorell's great scientific achievements and for his warm friendship we honour him with this symposium.