

Obituary

Svein G. Dahl, Ph.D.



Svein Dahl, Professor and Chair of Pharmacology at the University of Tromsø, and an ACNP Fellow, succumbed to cancer on December 8th, 2012. He died at his home near Tromsø, Norway, the city where he was born in 1942. Svein spent his entire professional life on the faculty at the University of Tromsø, having been appointed in 1976 immediately after obtaining his Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Oslo. Besides creating and maintaining a highly productive psychopharmacology research group in Norway, Svein expanded his capabilities and network of collaborators through a series of sabbaticals. These included stays at Synthelabo in Paris, the University of California, San Francisco, the Université René Descartes, the Université de Creteil, and at the C.N.R.S. in Montpellier. From 1994-1997 he was Research Director at the Institut de Recherche Jouveinal/Parke Davis while maintaining his faculty position. The breadth of his scientific interests and skills are evidenced by his substantive contributions to basic and clinical psychopharmacology. He was an early pioneer in combining computational and molecular graphics techniques to generate

three dimensional models of drug targets and to simulate drug-receptor interactions. Using this approach he was the first to construct a complete model of a G protein-coupled receptor. His work provided important insights into the molecular dynamics of the interaction of antipsychotics with the dopamine D2 receptor, drug attachment to monoamine transporters, and the actions of antidepressants. In recent years he expanded his work to create pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic models to explain and predict therapeutic and toxic responses to drugs. Svein's work is described in seven patents, eight books, and scores of research and review articles. Among the honors he received were appointments to the Governing Board of the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility, the Council of Scientists of the Human Frontier Science Program, and the Steering Group of the Norwegian Research Council's NevroNor Initiative. Besides his scientific interests, Svein was an accomplished saxophonist and an avid fan of jazz history and music. Until the very end he continued performing with his jazz group in Tromsø. His enthusiasm for science and music, as well as his creativity, self-effacing personality, and dry wit endeared him to legions of students, co-workers and colleagues across the globe. An ACNP member since 1990, Svein contributed significantly to the College and the discipline, and enriched the lives of all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Janet and their three children.

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