



PROFESSOR
JENS BANG
DENMARK



During the successful EUROSON 96 in Budapest, Professor Jens Bang, National Hospital, Copenhagen, received the highest award EFSUMB can offer to its Fellow Members, the Honorary Membership.

In 1997, EFSUMB could look back at 25 years of successful service for the ultrasound societies in Europe. Following a quarter of a century of voluntary work carried out by its Fellow Members, it is most appropriate that the society pays tribute to the important men and women who have carried the burden and made significant contributions to our society. The Executive Board in office during the period 1993 - 96 therefore decided to introduce an Honorary Membership to Fellow Members who were found worthy of such a prominent distinction.

Professor Bang was the first of EFSUMB's fellow members to receive the newly established Honorary Membership. President Sturla Eik-Nes presented him with the award during a memorable evening of Hungarian Folklore entertainment. The stage was filled with 100 gypsies, and a full conference audience applauded Professor Bang receiving his honor.

Professor Bang was born on July 30, 1936. He became a specialist in the field of gynecology and obstetrics in 1974, Chief Obstetrician and Head of the Department of Diagnostic Ultrasound, University Hospital of Copenhagen and Associated Professor in Gynecology and Obstetrics at the same hospital in 1985.

In his junior years as an obstetrician gynecologist in training he became part of the team of Professor Hans Henrik Holm in Copenhagen. Professor Bang pioneered the use of ultrasound in obstetrics and was the first to demonstrate fetal heart action using bistable ultrasound and time-motion technique (Am J Obstet Gynecol, 1968) and to describe a technique performing ultrasound guided amniocentesis (Am J Obstet Gynecol 1972) as well as the first to perform ultrasound guided fetal intravenous transfusion (Br Med J, 1982). With Dr. Lenz he also pioneered the oocyte aspiration for in vitro fertilization (Infertility, 1984) - a technique later widely used.

Professor Bang was a cofounder of the Danish Society of Ultrasound in 1974 and he has held most of the offices in his national society during the subsequent years.

His first contact with EFSUMB was as the Danish delegate in the period of 1975 - 78. He developed a particular interest in the aspects of safety and became a temporary adviser on safety issues in a WHO working group in 1976. In 1978, he initiated and became the first Chairman of the Committee for Ultrasound Radiation and Safety in EFSUMB. Professor Bang held this position until 1990 and his contribution to the development of the safety awareness has been significant. He has also held office as a consultant expert on ultrasound safety issues within the EEC and participated as a bioeffect resource member in AIUM and WFUMB.

Professor Bang's work included the well known Safety Statement agreed upon during EUROSON 1984 in Strasbourg, where the aspects dealing with the routine use of ultrasound were extensively debated. The paragraph introduced then read: «Routine ultrasound scanning of every woman during pregnancy is not contraindicated by the evidence currently available from biological investigations and its performance should be left to clinical judgment». That particular paragraph provided the opportunity to introduce an offer of a routine scan to every woman - a procedure that has been adopted by most of the countries in the industrialized world.

Professor Bang has traveled worldwide as a guest lecturer. His sense of humor is well known and appreciated by his audience. He has been particularly devoted to teaching and has donated much of his time to help introduce invasive procedures in obstetrical ultrasound throughout the world. His significant contribution during the establishment phase of the National Center for Fetal Medicine in Norway, for which the Norwegians are very grateful, is only one example of Professor Bang's unselfish efforts.

Professor Bang is a most worthy candidate for receiving the recently introduced Honorary Membership in EFSUMB. EFSUMB is happy to thank Professor Bang for outstanding work and devotion to the society and wish him a good health and all the best in his senior years.