

THE ELIS BERVEN LECTURE

Professor Elis Berven was born in 1885 and died in 1966. He was a pioneer in the fields of radiotherapy and clinical oncology. After training in anatomy 1907–12, he was appointed assistant to professor Gösta Forssell at the Roentgen Institute of the Serafimer Hospital in Stockholm in 1913. From 1913 until his retirement in 1950 he worked at Radiumhemmet in Stockholm and was the first professor of radiotherapy in Sweden (Mini Althainz's professorship at Karolinska Institute), an appointment which he held from 1936 to 1950. During different periods he acted as secretary and president of organizations, such as the Cancer Society in Stockholm, King Gustaf V's Jubilee Foundation, and the Swedish Society of Radiology. He was president of the European section of UICC in 1948–50 and of its Commission on Public Education in 1954–1958.

Elis Berven published many papers on radiotherapy and clinical oncology. His main interest was concentrated on head and neck malignancies. In 1931 his doctor's thesis on malignant tumours of the tonsil was presented and he also published several studies on oral carcinoma, for which he developed new treatment techniques based on teleradium treatment, interstitial irradiation and supplementary electrocoagulation. He was an enthusiastic oncologist and teacher who deeply influenced a whole generation of Swedish doctors.

In 1984 the Swedish Society of Medicine and Bristol-Myers in Sweden established 'The Elis Berven Lecture' which is given by an invited scientist at the Annual General Meeting of the Swedish Society of Medicine. The lecturers are selected by the Swedish Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology.

The 1991 Elis Berven Lecturer: Dr. Stanley Dische



Dr. Stanley Dische was born in London, England, in 1927. He has been a clinical director of Mount Vernon Centre for Cancer Treatment since 1985, visiting professor at the Department of Oncology, University College and Middlesex School of Medicine since 1989, life fellow of the Cancer Research Campaign since 1984 and honorary consultant radiotherapist at Mount Vernon, Luton and Dunstable and Barnet General Hospitals since 1988.

During his career as a clinical scientist, Dr. Dische has focused most of his study on clinical radiobiology, i.e. means to improve the efficacy of radiation treatment and/or to reduce its side-effects. This research has included investigations on effects of hypo- and hyperbaric conditions, radiosensitizers, and different fractionation schedules.