

## Laudatio to Professor Goran Bo Klintmalm on the occasion of his honorary membership of ESOT

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Mister President, Mister Chairmen, Dear Members and Guests, Dear Friends,

About 10 years ago the ESOT Council introduced honorary membership. It was decided to nominate two honorary members at each of the bi-annual ESOT Meetings: one of them being a European, with great achievements in the field of transplantation; the other one non-European, who has played a role in the development of transplantation in Europe. I recall to you the prestigious gallery of honorary ESOT members: Professors Starzl, Kuss, Calne, Van Rood, Makuuchi, Morris and Cabrol. It is a great honor today, before this audience, for me to promote another great leader of transplantation, Professor G. Klintmalm, from the status of founding ESOT member to a newly elected honorary member of this learned society.

Goran Bo Klintmalm grew up in a nice family environment in Stockholm and he trained at the world famous Karolinska Institute. After his rotating internship he started his training at Huddinge Hospital. His main focus of interest, vascular surgery, was slowly but surely replaced by transplantation surgery and medicine. His (translational) research on the innervation of the kidney helped him in this decision. He joined the team of Prof. C. Groth, former president of the Transplantation Society, in January 1978 at the Huddinge hospital. In the summer of 1979 he was sent to Prof. Th. Starzl, at that time active in Denver, where he was involved in the field of immunosuppression; an interest boosted at that time through the introduction of the newest immunosuppressive miracle drug cyclosporine A, in December of that same year. This drug, discovered by Prof. J. Borel, made the successful development of liver transplantation possible. He moved 2 years later, with Starzl's team to Pittsburgh in order to start the most prestigious transplant program in the world. It is worthwhile to remind young transplant professionals, that the markedly improved results obtained in the field of liver transplantation, transformed all kinds of solid organ transplantation from an experimental procedure into an everyday clinical reality. The clinical and scientific exploitation of cyclosporine A was an extraordinary opportunity that guided his career and

focused his main interests on the development of immunosuppression in organ transplantation and preservation. In the early fall of 1981, he returned to Karolinska Institute in Stockholm where, in September 1984, he successfully defended his PhD thesis on 'Cyclosporine A nephrotoxicity in human transplant patients. Clinical, pharmacological and morphological findings'. This short intermezzo at Huddinge hospital, allowed him to be part of the team performing the first liver transplantation in Sweden. Few months later, in December 1984, he was recruited by Starzl to become the director of Transplantation Services at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. The first liver transplantation at Baylor Medical College was performed in December 22, 1984. The Baylor University Transplant program grew constantly under his leadership and he finally managed to merge the three separate transplant programs in Dallas together into the Dallas Liver Transplant Center, now considered as one of the best centers worldwide. He is currently director of Transplantation Services at Baylor University Medical Center and chief and chairman of the Baylor Regional Transplant Institute.



**Figure 1** Professor G. B. Klintmalm in the company of Professors Starzl and Groth on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Dallas Liver Transplant Program.

During his career he was particularly involved in the development of surgery of liver transplantation and the care, especially immunosuppressive, of these patients. He has authored and co-authored 487 publications (370 peer reviewed papers; 81 non peer reviewed papers; 34 book chapters and 2 books) and 297 presentations nearly all in the field of transplantation. He edited together with Professor Busuttil from UCLA the famous textbook 'Transplantation of the Liver', a book every transplant surgeon dealing with liver diseases should have on his shelves. Everyone who has attended major transplant meetings, knows he is an attentive participant, and not afraid to raise very critical and to the point questions. This important load of scientific and clinical activities allowed him to train more than 40 transplant surgeons, practicing transplantation around the world; several (13) of them being from Europe.

He is not only a very productive scientist but also a visionary transplant professional. In 1985 under his guidance a huge research data-base and attached 'bio-repository' that follows transplant patients for life was established. The exploitation of this 'gold mine' of information and material will surely lead to major progresses in the field of transplantation. He has been appointed associate editor of American Journal of Transplantation and of Liver Transplantation and he serves on 13 editorial boards. He is member of 27 medical and surgical societies. He has served on more than 25 national medical committees such as UNOS and Health and Human Services and as principal investigator of innumerable national and international research projects mainly related to immunosuppression.

During the period 2007–2008, Prof. Klintmalm was a very active and respected President of the American Soci-

ety of Transplant Surgeons. During his presidency many medical and administrative matters in relation to organ transplantation, donation and allocation have been resolved and/or introduced in the US thanks to his continuous efforts.

Besides all his medical, surgical, scientific and administrative activities, Professor KLINTMALM is also a true 'family man'. His family is by far the most important thing in his life. His wife, Cristina, is vice-consul for the Swedish Consulate in Dallas; and he is the proud father of three sons: Marcus, an MBA working for a power company in Dallas, Eric, doing a masters at New York University in medicine and Philip, just graduated as a geologist and working in the oil and gas industry. Family activities such as baking, scuba diving skiing, fishing, and traveling remain possible despite his heavy professional activities ... and the Scotland highlands are a favorite spot for traveling with his entire family since 1986!

Professor Klintmalm, dear Goran; it was an honor for me to deliver this introductory speech at the occasion of your honorary membership of ESOT. This honorary membership should be seen as a token of esteem from the ESOT for all you have done for the transplant community. Without any doubt you deserve this important award given by your European peers.

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