

Antti Alho

1935–2000

Antti Alho, President of the Board of *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*, died on May 26, 2000 in Helsinki after suffering from a rapidly progressing malignant hypernephroma. He was 65 years old. He endured the last few months with the discipline and courage that were characteristic of him.

He was born on May 13, 1935 in Kotka, a lively harbor town east of Helsinki. After secondary

school, he started his medical studies at the University of Helsinki and obtained his medical degree in 1959. He began working in basic research even when a medical student, and in 1961, he defended his doctoral thesis on regeneration of tissue. It heralded a life-long interest in the response of organ tissues to stress and the characteristics of tissue repair. Antti Alho was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Minnesota 1969–1970, where he studied experimental endotoxin shock. Prior to this, he trained in

the surgical clinics of Helsinki University Hospital, receiving his specialist diploma in surgery in 1967 and in orthopedic surgery in 1968. Antti was an ardent clinician and, during his training, made several contributions to the care of accident victims with multiple injuries. He was appointed Lecturer in Orthopedics and Traumatology at the University of Helsinki in 1973, starting his career as an academic teacher.

In 1976, Antti Alho was appointed Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Bergen, Norway. In addition to clinical work, research and teaching, he was soon involved in the organization of bone tumour services. When he was a Research

Fellow in Orthopedic Surgery in 1982, he stayed with Henry J. Mankin at Harvard University in Boston. This resulted in articles on the classification of malignant tumors, completed some years later by reports on the results of allogeneic osteoarticular grafts used in tumor surgery.

In 1983, he was appointed Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Oslo, Norway.

There he continued his biomechanical studies on internal fixation techniques, which resulted in several articles on locked intramedullary nailing and nailed fractures of the hip.

After 18 years in Norway, he was appointed Chief of the Orthopaedic Hospital ORTON of the Invalid Foundation in Helsinki, Finland, where he served the orthopedic staff with enthusiasm and vigor. He started new research projects on periarticular osteotomies and telemedicine in orthopedic surgery, until his illness forced him to step down,

only a few months before his planned retirement.

Antti Alho's most notable qualities were his enthusiasm and wide-ranging interest in almost all aspects of orthopedic and trauma surgery. He was an assiduous worker with a remarkable ability to get things done. His intellectual honesty and sound criticism were appreciated by all who worked with him, and those who were close to him enjoyed his wit and humor. He possessed good judgment, which was well recognized by his companions. Thus, he was Board Member of the Finnish Medical Association 1966–1968, Secretary of the Finnish Orthopaedic Association 1971–1973, Chairman of the Trauma Section of the



Scandinavian Surgical Society 1969–1975 and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the European Orthopaedic Research Society 1992–1996. He was Honorary Member of the American Medical Association, the Finnish Orthopaedic Society, the Norwegian Orthopaedic Society and the Orthopaedic Society of Uruguay.

Throughout his life, Antti Alho took pride in being a Finn, and was a great promoter of nordic orthopedic research and education programs. He was associated with *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica* for several decades, serving 1984–1986 as Associate Editor, 1987–1988 as Deputy Editor

and since 1996 as President of the Board. His contributions were remarkable, adding by their own merits to Acta's reputation as a well-run orthopedic journal.

Despite all of his accomplishments, Antti Alho found time to enjoy the pleasure of relaxation. He preferred outdoor activities with his family, in the mountains of Norway and the lake districts of Finland. In addition, he shared his family's interest in music and contemporary art, being himself an accomplished musician. Antti Alho is survived by his wife Seija and four children, to whom we extend our condolences and deepest sympathy.

Pär Slätis