

# Stefán Haraldsson

1922–1996

On the 18th of August 1996 we received the sad news that our colleague and dear friend Stefán Haraldsson had left us.

Stefán, born 1922, studied medicine at the University of Iceland and after his MD in 1949 he worked as a surgeon for some years in Copenhagen and Reykjavik under Snorri Hallgrímsson, the first Professor of General Surgery in Iceland who was also interested in orthopedic surgery. Hallgrímsson wrote his thesis at Norrbacka Institute in Stockholm, where he became a good friend of Gunnar Wiberg, later Professor of Orthopedic Surgery in Lund. Therefore it was natural for Hallgrímsson to send his favorite adept, Stefán Haraldsson, to Lund for further training. In 1955 he arrived in Lund to start his education as an orthopedic surgeon.

Stefán soon became much appreciated by all his colleagues. He started his career as an observer but quickly became one of the regular staff of doctors at the Orthopedic Clinic of Lund University. Already from the start, Stefán studied extremely carefully all the great standard books on orthopedic surgery and the study and proper follow-up of everything that happened in this subject was a salient feature throughout all his life. He always knew how to handle difficult problems in the entire field of orthopedic surgery and also handled these problems with consummate skill. He could also skillfully transmit his knowledge to his colleagues and adepts.

Very early he became interested in clinical research and wrote his thesis on Morbus Panner, a work of high quality which soon made him Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery. His thesis, unique in 1959, is still the fundamental and standard work on Mb Panner. Stefán worked as assistant chief at the orthopedic hospital Solhem in Borås during the years 1959–1961, but returned to Lund. From there, he moved in 1962 to the orthopedic hospital in Härnösand, where he became Nils Lindström's nearest co-worker and assistant chief and also his successor in 1967. In Härnösand, he also made many friends, admiring adepts and colleagues and we really missed him when he moved back home to Reykjavik in 1971.



In Reykjavik, Stefán started the first orthopedic clinic at the University Hospital in Iceland. During the following years, Stefán gave Icelandic orthopedic surgery a high and internationally well-known standard. As a man of great knowledge and friendliness, he became an admired and dear friend among Nordic and international colleagues. He was Iceland's delegate to SICOT and Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica and was an active participant in SICOT's congresses during many years. He also became the first president of the Nordic Orthopedic Association in Iceland in 1984, and arranged a couple of well-organized Nordic congresses of high standard in Reykjavik.

After an accident some years ago, unfortunately Stefán could no longer take part in surgical activities but, as a physician of great knowledge and experience, he continued as an appreciated consultant and adviser.

It was a shock to his old friends to hear of Stefán's sudden death but we will keep him in bright and life-long memory. Stefán was a worthy representative of the orthopedic community.

**Hans Emnéus, Bengt Tillberg, Muhammed Zayer**