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Homage to Bengt Rosengren

June 23, 1899-February 19, 1979

Prof. Bengt Rosengren was head of the Department of Ophthalmology in Gothenburg, Sweden 1933-1965. Even after retirement he continued to pursue experimental and clinical studies, and shortly before his death he was still preparing papers for scientific meetings.

Homage to Bengt Rosengren XXVI

For more than 50 years Rosengren practiced ophthalmology with such devotion that it became his hobby as well as his profession. Typically, he found his challenge in such problematic diseases as glaucoma and retinal detachment, conditions whose therapy required creative imagination and sound clinical judgement combined with the skill of a brilliant surgeon.

As a young ophthalmologist he visited Jules Gonin in Lausanne and became convinced that the sealing of retinal breaks was essential for effective surgery of detachments. Translating theory into practice, Rosengren
successfully treated retinal detachments with diathermy in the early 1930s, and soon added his own innovation of intravitreal air tamponage. In the following decades he was Scandinavia’s leading retinal surgeon, educating many generations of ophthalmologists. One of his favourite interests was the pathogenesis of retinal detachment which he studied from several aspects and, during his last years, focused on the effects of liquid flow inside the vitreous space.

Perhaps timid in speech and manner, he was a giant in action and iron willed when it came to accomplishing his ideas. He possessed the ability to rapidly understand the value of new methods or innovations and could immediately realize their future use. He was loved by his patients, admired by his disciples, and honoured by his colleagues. We salute Bengt Rosengren as a distinguished scientist and a sincere friend.

Peep Algvere, MD
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Introduction
Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My dear Friends,

It is a very great pleasure for me to wish you all a fruitful and pleasant meeting. I should also like, on behalf of the International Council of Ophthalmology and of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies, as well as in my own name, to congratulate the Council of the Gonin's Club, its President, Dr. Ed Norton, and its Secretary General, Prof. Gailloud, for running this Club so beautifully. This meeting, held in wonderful surroundings, will, I am sure, leave in your mind the happiest memories, but it will also recall you the most recent advances in maculopathies, vitreous and retinal surgery, as well as in diabetic retinopathy, the more so that the roundtables on these subjects are run by real experts.

I still remember when 21 years ago the Gonin's Club was created in Lausanne by Prof. Streiff and Prof. Dufour. We were perhaps at that time 50 who attended the first meeting. Since then there are many more members, but it is a sad feeling to state that many of the founder members have already passed away. You, the members of today, have nevertheless the duty to continue the work of your predecessors, to look to the future and to improve the retinal surgery, which was the main ideal of that genius, who was Gonin.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, my dear Friends, have a good time in Crans from the social as well as the scientific point of view. But before ending should like to thank on your behalf Prof. Gailloud, Dr. Ducrey and their collaborators for having organized this outstanding and most successful meeting so beautifully.

Prof. Jules François