In Memoriam: A Tribute to Professor Niels Borregaard

Professor Dr. med. Niels Borregaard passed away in January 2017 at the age of 65 years from cancer. He is survived by his wife Susanne, four children, and his grandchildren.

Niels Borregaard grew up in Jutland, Denmark, and graduated as an MD from the University of Aarhus in 1978. Niels was, for a short time, also enrolled at the Aarhus Conservatory as an oboist. He did not complete his studies there, but he maintained a great interest in music and culture throughout his life.

Early in his studies, Niels became interested in research, especially into the biology of the neutrophil granulocytes. This was the subject of his doctoral thesis in 1981 and neutrophils remained his main interest for the rest of his research career. He made fundamental and ground-breaking discoveries related to the mechanisms that control the generation and maturation of neutrophils and the formation of their distinct subsets of granules. Furthermore, he discovered and characterized several novel granule proteins of neutrophils in humans, including NGAL and hCAP-18, both of fundamental importance for innate immunity. He founded the Granulocyte Research Laboratory at the Rigshospitalet University Hospital in Copenhagen, where he mentored numerous young MDs and PhDs over the years.

Niels received several honours for his great scientific work, including the Novo Nordisk Prize, the KFJ award at the University of Copenhagen, and the Dana Lim Prize, and also received an honorary doctorate at the University of Lund in Sweden in 2008.

In 1998, he became Chair Professor of Haematology and Head of the Haematology Clinic at the Rigshospitalet (until 2008), with a sustained focus on providing excellent patient care, research, development, and education. Throughout his tenure at the Rigshospitalet, Niels was a key person in the hospital's major research activities and strategies.

Prof. Niels Borregaard
(20/09/1951–10/01/2017)

Niels served on the boards of several foundations and councils and was an important voice regarding allocations and strategic research decisions in Denmark for many years. He was on the Board of the Alfred Benzon Foundation from 1996. He was also a member of the Novo Nordisk Foundation from 2000 to 2013, and Chairman of their Medical and Scientific Committee. From 2011 to 2014, he was Chairman of the Danish Medical Research Council.

For 14 years, he was the main editor of the *European Journal of Haematology*. He was the associate editor of *Blood* and on the editorial boards of several other journals including the *Journal of Innate Immunity*.

Niels was an extremely diligent and productive human being. Nobody could get cases processed without undue delay as he did. He was gifted, analytical, and sharp. He stated his views, and always managed to unwrap the truth. He was also a very warm and humorous person who very much appreciated his family. All who knew him and the scientific community will deeply miss him.

Peter Garred, Copenhagen
Lars Kjeldsen, Copenhagen