

Obituary

Anne Katrin Sjølie (Anka)

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Anne Katrin Sjølie (Anka) was a true Scandinavian. She was born in Gävle, Sweden in 1943, grew up in Norway, and obtained her medical degree from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark in 1971. After qualifying as a specialist in ophthalmology in 1979, Anka worked as a consultant in ophthalmology in Danish university eye departments in Aarhus and Odense. In 1998, she became the chair as professor in Ophthalmology at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense. Anka is probably most known for her long-term studies of the epidemiology of the diabetic retinopathy. In her thesis 'Ocular complications in insulin treated diabetes mellitus: An epidemiological study' (1985), she provided the first reliable figures of the prevalence and incidence of this condition. She continued her work with diabetic retinopathy throughout her career, and made numerous important contributions to the field. She took part in a number of large, international, multicenter, clinical studies (EURODIAB, EURODIAB-PCS, EUCLID, DIRECT, RESOLVE, EUROCONDOR, VIVID). As a clinician, Anka was one of the pioneers in photoscreening for diabetic retinopathy, and was a key actor in the early adoption of this technology in Denmark. She was an esteemed vitreoretinal surgeon, and her good humor and clinical acumen made her very appreciated among her clinical colleagues. Anka was generally admired and respected for her uncompromising fairness and objectivity in all professional matters. These characteristics made her a successful chairperson for the Danish Ophthalmological Society (1995–1998), as well as a successful president of the European Association for the Study of Diabetic eye disease (2010–2012). In teaching, Anka also excelled. She was very well liked by her undergraduate and graduate students. In the spring of 2011, Anka was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, to which she succumbed on January 19th, 2013.

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