In memoriam Jan Gillquist 1934–2016

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Jan Gillquist will always be remembered as one of the greatest in the field of knee surgery and sports medicine. He picked up the idea of knee arthroscopy in the early 1970s and became one of the pioneers, together with colleagues like Robert Jackson, Richard O'Connor, David

Dandy and Ejnar Eriksson. Later in his career, he became chairman of both the International Arthroscopy Association in 1987–1989 and the International Society of the Knee in 1991–1993. He organized the first combined meeting for the IAA and ISK in Copenhagen in 1993, which was the starting point for merging to form the current ISAKOS. He was elected to the AOSSM Hall of Fame.

Jan was a truly multitalented person. He was born in 1934. His mother was a textile artist, whose work was characterized by perfection. His father was a lecturer in modern languages and Latin at Katedralskolan, the most prestigious high school in Linköping, Sweden. In his adolescence, Jan was an award-winning guitarist, who played at dance

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parties, which he sometimes organized himself. He was also skilled at drawing, a talent of which many of his Ph.D. students took advantage by finding their tutor and medical illustrator in one and the same person.

Jan Gillquist qualified as an M.D. from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm in 1960. He started his career in general surgery at Danderyd Hospital in Stockholm and later at the Karolinska Hospital. He received his Ph.D. from the same institution in 1969. He became a skilled surgeon in endocrine surgery but also in traumatology, where he worked closely with Sten-Otto Liljedahl, who, like Jan, originated from the area around Linköping. When Sten-Otto was appointed Professor of General Surgery at Linköping University it was a logical choice for Jan to join him.

Jan was the main adviser for more than 30 Ph.D. dissertations, and he published extensively not only in arthroscopy, knee ligament injuries and sports medicine, but also in endocrine surgery, shock and wound infections. Even though he travelled a great deal over the years, he was an extremely approachable adviser. It was not unusual to receive a thoroughly reviewed manuscript with a creative mixture of criticism and encouragement the next day. As an adviser, he was demanding, but he also became a close friend. He introduced us to a systematic step-by-step truly clinically scientific way of working. Everything was possible and nothing impossible to question. What is more, he was a generous person who liked to see his tutees step forward into the limelight. He was not stuck in surgical techniques, even though he took part in the development of instruments for arthroscopic meniscectomy together with Nils Oretorp and a drill guide for ACL reconstruction together with Magnus Odensten. He was ahead of his time when it came to understanding the need for a systematic approach to follow-up, which stimulated the development of the Lysholm knee score and the Tegner activity rating scale, both of which are still used extensively and worldwide more than 30 years after they were first presented. He also understood the importance of the entire chain of treatment of knee injuries; a correct diagnosis and pre-operative assessment, surgery and post-operative rehabilitation and—somewhat revolutionary at that time—the treatment of ACL injuries without surgery but with rehabilitation alone. Jan became the tutor for a number of physiotherapists who, after their training with Jan, have contributed to the

development of physiotherapy in Sweden. This multidisciplinary approach was the keystone of the Linköping Sport Trauma Research Group, which became famous worldwide and organized several seminars and courses, which were characterized by a close and familiar atmosphere, all in accordance with Jan's ideals and desire.

Jan was also always present and active at congresses. He liked scientific discussions but also demanded scientific sharpness. He could be direct, blunt and very critical, when he thought it was necessary, but also very encouraging.

For Jan, work should be done to the best of your ability or not at all. This made him abdicate from the international scene of knee traumatology and sports medicine in what was in many colleagues' opinion a somewhat drastic manner. However, if you got to know Jan, it was quite understandable; he was never willing to do anything half-heartedly. At that time, ready to retire from his professorship in Sports Medicine at Linköping University, he wanted to do something completely different. And so he did. Together with his wife, Karola Messner, who also retired completely from academic life, he moved to Lilla Vik at the Baltic Sea archipelago. In the same devoted and systematic way, they created a most wonderful six-acre garden together—"The garden of Love"—with 1000 roses of more than 400 different species. The garden also includes 10 sculptures of Adam and Eve, a large park of rhododendrons and several ponds, the largest one measuring 14 × 7 m and called "Lake Happiness". Again, Jan's creation became prize-winning. Their garden was awarded as "the most beautiful garden in Sweden" in 2011 by a large Swedish house and garden magazine. Jan was obviously proud and used to say that "The garden of Love" was his most successful Ph.D. project ever. The garden has numerous visitors every summer. Jan also created a comprehensive botanical library, published in botanical magazines and wrote a book on *The garden of Love*.

Moreover, during his last 10 years, he and his wife Karola studied William Shakespeare extensively, which brought them to questions of falsehood and politics.

For some of us a friend and for everybody a remarkable and fascinating person, Jan has left us with many memories. On behalf of the scientific society in knee traumatology and sports medicine, we thank him for his huge contributions to our field.