Carl Gustav Nilsson 1944–2015

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It is with regret we report the death of Professor Carl-Gustaf Nilsson who died on 8 October 2015, aged 71 years. Nilsson (“Tutte”) was born in Helsinki, Finland on 8 August

1944, where he went to school and later qualified as a doctor. He completed his specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University Hospital in Helsinki and in 2001 was awarded a professorship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Helsinki University.

Nilsson started his scientific career at the Steroid Laboratory of Professor Tapani Luukkainen, the inventor of Mirena®, the levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system. At that time, he was actively involved in family planning research and, in particular, pioneering work regarding the development of hormone-releasing intrauterine systems. He successfully defended his thesis within this field at the University of Helsinki in 1977, and was one of the first researchers in the world to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of hormone-releasing intrauterine systems. He was accomplished in the surgical treatment of gynecological illnesses, collaborating with Professor Ulf Ulmsten to develop the tension-free vaginal tape (TVT) procedure for treating female stress urinary incontinence. He applied this minimally invasive technique from an early stage in its development, becoming generally accepted as one of the world’s leading experts. This early involvement permitted him to successfully follow patients for many years after surgery, thus collecting important information regarding long-term results of TVT surgery [1]. He published more than 100 scientific papers and was supervisor for six theses. He was extremely involved both nationally and internationally in numerous organizations, especially within the urogynecology profession, including the International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) [2], and a member of the executive committee of the European Urogynaecological Association (EUGA)

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until his death, chairman of the Finnish Society of Medicine 2008–2009, and became an honorary member of the Finnish Gynaecological Society in 2009. Although he formally retired in 2012, he remained highly participatory in the assessment of modern surgical techniques within urogynecology.

Nilsson was a successful sportsman. As a teenager, he achieved the elite level in gymnastics and later success in cross-country skiing. Sailing was one of his great interests, a sport he entered into in the 1950s. He was a trainer for the Finnish sailing team at two Olympic Games (Montreal 1976 and Moscow 1980), and under his leadership, the Finnish sailing team won both gold and bronze medals in Moscow.

Carl-Gustaf Nilsson was a much appreciated colleague and friend who is missed by many of us engaged in the field of urogynecology

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