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Lars Mogemen, M.D., Ph.D.

Lars Mogensen who has been appointed an honorary life member of the European Resuscitation Council was not only a founder member of the Council but more importantly he provided the concept, the enthusiasm, and the determination that brought it into being.

Lars Mogensen was born in Falun, Sweden in 1936 and qualified from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in 1963. He made his mark in cardiology with a dissertation on a thesis entitled

“Ventricular tachyarrhythmias and lignocaine prophylaxis in acute myocardial infarction”.

This received the highest grade for dissertations in 1970. It influenced medical practice at the time, but also led its author to an abiding interest in resuscitation. He became Docent (Assistant Professor) at the Karolinska Institute in 1971 and subsequently remained in posts affiliated to the Institute.

Dr Mogensen has been a prominent member of the Swedish Society of Cardiology and became in turn its Scientific Secretary and President. He also served on a Scientific Council of the International Society of Cardiology, and became a Vice President of the European Society of Cardiology. A talented teacher, Dr Mogensen has lectured in many parts of the world. He has been an editor, a member of the editorial board, or a frequent reviewer for at least eight journals, and has published about 140 scientific articles with nearly half of them related to original work.

Although Dr Mogensen has written on many aspects of cardiology, studies relating to resuscitation have featured prominently in his bibliography following his early research on malignant arrhythmias associated with myocardial infarction.

He became an active member of the Swedish working group for CPR from 1992.

His interest and experience led him to see more clearly than anyone else the need for European collaboration in matters relating to resuscitation. Dr Mogensen led an attempt to set up a working group on resuscitation within the European Society of Cardiology, but this failed to obtain the crucial final approval of the Society’s general assembly. At first this was a bitter disappointment both to himself and to his colleagues, but it was then accepted that the reality of and the need for multidisciplinary involvement in resuscitation called for an entirely new society

that would involve anaesthetists, cardiologists, intensivists, experimental scientists, and others with an interest in Resuscitation. This concept drew wide support that led to an initial meeting of prospective members in Belgium in 1988, and to the official inauguration of the European Resuscitation Council the following year. Problems with his health have prevented Lars Mogensen playing a leading role in the ERC over the last few years but he has made a huge and permanent contribution to the science and practice of resuscitation: perhaps more than anyone he has been responsible for the explosion of interest within Europe. The Council is proud that he has accepted honorary life membership.

Douglas Chamberlain and Stig Holmberg

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