

O B I T U A R Y

JOUNI TIMISJÄRVI

9.2.1947-15.3.2004

Jouni Heikki Timisjärvi died suddenly at his home in Haukipudas, Kello, Finland on the 15th of March 2004.

He was born on the 9th of February 1947 in reindeer herder's family which lived on the shore of beautiful Lake Timisjärvi in Posio. Timisjärvi's father was at one time director of the herders' co-operative of Timisjärvi.

Jouni Timisjärvi was a doctor of both medicine and surgery. He was one of the first teachers of the Institute of Physiology at the University of Oulu. His teaching career started in 1971 and he acted as both assistant professor and professor. He was an esteemed teacher and scientist who specialised in heart diseases and the history of medicine on which he was writing a book. Jouni Timisjärvi was an excellent, critical tutor of graduate students working on cardiac physiology at the University of Oulu.

Jouni Timisjärvi was a pioneer of reindeer physiology in Finland. His doctoral thesis, "The blood circulation of the reindeer", was completed in 1978. I completed my own doctoral study of condition and blood composition in reindeer under his tutorship. Timisjärvi was given the honorary title as the docent of physiology in the University of Oulu in 1985. He published more than 50 scientific papers, many of these concerning reindeer physiology.

Timisjärvi encouraged reindeer research in Finland. In spring 1977 we started the joint trips to the Kaamanen experimental farm owned by the Reindeer Herders' Association. Together we studied the growth and survival of calves and the development of their immune system. We also studied a variety of vital functions and aspects of the endocrine system of reindeer. Timisjärvi's expert knowledge was made good use of when planning and developing the Reindeer Station of the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute into an international research station. He took part in many international meetings including meetings and other events organised by the Nordic Council of Reindeer Husbandry Research (NOR). The last mutual scientific meeting was the 11th Arctic Ungulate Conference in Saariselkä, Finland, where he acted as a member of the Scientific Committee and chairman of session on physiology.



Mauri Nieminen