Sven Nikander defended his D.Med.Vet. thesis «Studies on the exocrine ducts of the pancreas and the liver in reindeer (Rangifer tarandus tarandus L.)» at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Helsinki, Finland on 10 June 1991.

He was born 24 November 1936 in Åbo in Finland but grew up on the Åland islands. He studied biology at the Åbo Academy (M. A. 1969; D. Lic.Vet. 1979.) He is currently Assistant professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Helsinki. Special interests: Parasites, especially in reindeer.

The study showed that the pancreas in reindeer consisted of two lobes, the right lobe situated in the first loop of duodenum and the left one near the medial wall of the rumen. The pancreatic ducts unite to form a common duct leading into the common bile duct which has a thin, elastic wall surrounded by fat and pancreatic tissue. An anatomic curiosity was the occurrence of pancreatic tissue in the wall of the common bile duct under the mucosal layer. This mucosal layer consisted of covering- and glandular ciliated epithelial cells.

Large cells with cytoplasmatic granules sometimes so big that they deformed the cell nuclei occurred within the epithelium. These globular leukocytes differed distinctly from the small, granulated mast cells which were observed under the mucosa and the connective tissue.

Neutral-, carboxy- and sulphomucines were detected in the mucus secreted from goblet and glandular cells in the epithelium and in the globular leukocytes. Sulphomucines were seen in the cytoplasmatic granules of the mast cells.