



## Professor Calle Bengtsson, the Honorary Doctor

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## EDITORIAL

### Professor Calle Bengtsson, the Honorary Doctor



A peak in a GP's life: Honorary Doctor, Professor Calle Bengtsson, together with his hosts Professors Irma Virjo and Kari Mattila on the staircase at Tampere City Hall during the Conferment Ball in September 2005. Photo: Aimo Ojala®.

Professor Calle Bengtsson has been conferred with the Degree of Honorary Doctor at the Medical Faculty of University of Tampere for his merits as a researcher, teacher, and promoter of a Nordic cooperation in general practice, and as a good collaborator with the Department of General Practice at Tampere University. The traditional ceremonial conferment took place on 16 September 2005.

Professor Bengtsson's most significant research work concerns the study on women in Gothenburg initiated in 1968 [1–3]. The 36-year follow-up of these women was accomplished in 2005. This was pioneering work and a model for Scandinavian cohort research.

Professor Calle Bengtsson was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care* 1996–2003 [4]. During this time the journal developed into the most prestigious publishing channel for research on general practice. Professor Bengtsson has greatly furthered the cooperation of the Nordic scientific colleges and associations in general practice.

At several points Professor Bengtsson has engaged in cooperation with the Department of General Practice at the University of Tampere. In 1998 he was the invited keynote speaker at the national scientific conference on general practice in Tampere. For this occasion he took the trouble to learn Finnish and delivered his lecture proficiently in that language.

At the University of Tampere the Ceremonial Conferment of Doctoral Degrees is celebrated for four days in a traditional and dignified way, but not very often. The previous Conferment was in 2000 and the one before that in 1992. In the 2005 festivities there were six Honorary Doctors, 61 Doctors of Medicine, 15 Doctors of Health Sciences and 11 Doctors of Philosophy to receive the doctoral degree. The festivities included a Scientific Symposium with lectures by the Honorary Doctors, and the “Wetting the Sword” event (the sword symbolizing the defending of the truth in science). The Ceremonial Conferment of degrees to Honorary Doctors was followed by the Solemn Procession, which marched through the centre of the city to Tampere Cathedral for Divine Service. The Conferment Banquet was held with a fine dinner, traditional speeches, and music, followed by a Conferment Ball in the City Hall. The ball continued until four o'clock in the morning. The festivities ended with a Conferment Cruise on the fourth day.

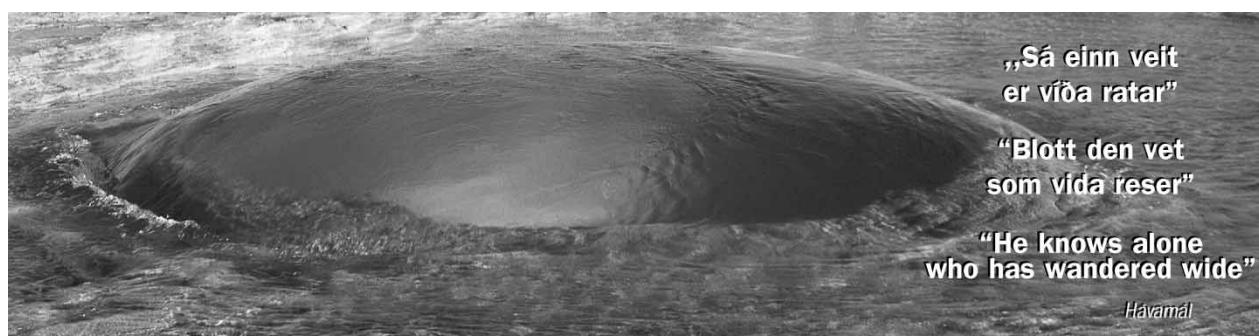
Professor Calle Bengtsson represented general practice impressively and did his share to increase appreciation of the discipline.

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*Kari Mattila  
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„Sá einn veit  
er víða ratar”

“Blott den vet  
som víða reser”

“He knows alone  
who has wandered wide”

*Havamal*



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