



# Flaggermusen

## Organ for Norsk forening for ultralyddiagnostikk

### Minneord over vårt æresmedlem Karel Maršál

Sammenfattet av Lars Petter Bjørnsen

**Karel Maršál**

**1943–2023**

Under NFUD konferansen i Tromsø 26.–28. april 2023 ble en hyppig og kjær gjest i ultralydforeningen hedret. Karel Maršál gikk bort tidligere i år etter et langt og innholdsrikt liv i ultralydens tjeneste. Æresmedlem Sturla Eik-Nes redegjorde for arbeidet Karel utførte for NFUD. Karel var på sitt første møte i NFUD i 1983 på Røros og ble æresmedlem under 25 års jubileet i Oslo i 2001.

I 1984, var Karel ordstyrer på et historisk møte i Ålesund arrangert av NFUD: «First Nordic Symposium on Ultrasound Screening in Pregnancy». Dette møtet ble også kalt “Thumbs Up møtet”. Det var på dette møtet “The battle of ultrasound” startet i Norge. Det var 333 norske og svenske gynekologer på møtet, samt noen dansker. I tillegg var tre professorer i genetikk til stede og flere arbeiderpartipolitikere. Politikerne og representanter fra LO kjempet for at alle gravide kvinner skulle få ultralyd. Det var også en rekke ledende tyske professorer, Hansmann, Terinde og Hackelöer (Hackelöer ble æresmedlem av NFUD i 2014), på møtet, samt Professor Stuart Campbell (som stiftet ISUOG og ble æresmedlem av NFUD i 2014). Det var intense diskusjoner på møtet i 1984 og Karel stod midt mellom de stridende partene; – gynekologer på den ene siden og epidemiologer på den andre. Karel håndterte møtet bestemt og godt og historiker Lise Kvande, som tok sin PhD på “Ultralyd-diagnostikk i norsk svangerskapsomsorg 1970–1995”, konkluderte i sin PhD med at “The Ålesund meeting was the single most important factor to introduce routine scanning in week 18 in Norway.”

Nedenfor er en nekrolog for Karel skrevet av æresmedlem Sturla Eik-Nes og kollegaer.

It is with sadness that we received the message that Karel Maršál passed away on March 6, 2023. Karel Maršál, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Lund University and Director of the WHO Collaborating Center in Lund, was born in Prague, former Czechoslovakia, in 1943. After completing his undergraduate studies at Charles University in Prague, he and his fiancée Lida moved as political refugees to Sweden in 1968. They came to Malmö General Hospital in 1973, where Karel gained his specialty in obstetrics and gynecology. Already then, Malmö was a nursery for research on fetal physiology and monitoring, and Karel was soon involved. He defended his PhD Thesis, “Ultrasonic Measurements of Fetal Breathing Movements in Man, at Lund University in 1977.

With the introduction of Doppler ultrasonography to measure blood flow velocity, an era of prolific research commenced, leading to a growing international collaboration under Karel’s leadership. In a series of PhD theses, normal fetal circulation was mapped to form the basis for the clinical assessment of the compromised fetus, and for studying the effects of medications and smoking during pregnancy. Experimental work on fetal lambs added further insights into circulatory pathophysiology. The introduction of routine ultrasound in Malmö in 1972 paved the way for identifying and studying fetal growth-restriction and its underlying circulatory changes, today a major clinical field. Karel was the Head of the Perinatal Division at the University Hospital in Malmö and his enthusiasm, perseverance and meticulousness as a scientist earned him a professorship in Malmö in 1991.

In 1997, Karel moved to Lund to become Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and later head of the clinical department. In 1995, he became Honorary Professor at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. He also served as Director of the undergraduate program of the Medical School at Lund University and as Chief Medical Officer in the county of Skåne, Sweden. Karel was the main tutor of 21 PhD students and co-tutor of another 14 research students. He published 354 original papers, 132 book chapters and reviews, and 14 textbooks. He was editor or co-editor of Journal of Maternal and Fetal Investigation, of Fetal and Maternal Medicine Review, of Seminars in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine, and a member of the editorial board of 10 international scientific journals. His primary areas of experience and research were in perinatology, obstetrics, fetal monitoring, OB/GYN ultrasound, Doppler ultrasound, fetal physiology, ultrasound safety, and obstetric quality assurance.

Throughout the years, Karel’s research was supported by numerous grants, among them from the prestigious Swedish Research Council. He was the principal investigator in numerous national and international multicenter studies, such as the EXPRESS study on extremely preterm infants in Sweden and national coordinator for Sweden in three EU studies. Karel served as president of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISUOG), he was an honorary member of various national and international institutions and a board member of EFSUMB, WFUMB, and other societies. In the past, he was the main organizer of 15 international scientific congresses, including two world congresses on ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology. He received several prestigious awards, such as the Ian Donald Gold Medal and the Haackert Gold Medal

in Prenatal Medicine. Karel was elected Doctor Honoris Causae at universities in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and Poznan, Poland. He was course leader of 38 national and international postgraduate courses in perinatal medicine, obstetrics, ultrasound, and obstetric Doppler ultrasound. His last participation in such an event was in February 2023.

Karel's wife, Lida, gave him unending support throughout his career. Had Karel not injured his leg in a skiing accident, their paths may never have crossed. He had to take a break from medical school, and when he returned to his studies, he and Lida became classmates.

Innumerable mothers and children all over the globe have benefited from Karel's ground-breaking scientific work, leadership, and deeds. His 50-year career as a clinician, scientist, teacher, coach, role model, and – most of all – the best friend of the unborn baby is now at an end. Among his friends and co-workers, he will be vividly remembered as a quietly jovial, sharp-witted gentleman with a human perspective and a friendly attitude toward each of us. He is sorely missed.

Sturla Eik-Nes, Norway  
Reynir Tomas Geirsson, Iceland  
Saemundur Gudmundsson, Sweden  
Pentti Jouppila, Finland  
Torvid Kiserud, Norway  
Karin Källén, Sweden  
Torben Larsen, Denmark  
Per Olofsson, Sweden  
Per-Håkan Persson, Sweden  
Ann Thuring, Sweden  
Lil Valentin, Sweden