



Obituary

Honoring a colleague and friend, Charles H. Blomquist



In the summer of 2009, the scientific community learned with sorrow that a pioneer of steroid enzymology had passed away.

Charles H. Blomquist for his friends, Chuck, was an internationally recognized expert on steroid regulation and metabolism. Chuck spent 30 years at Regions Hospital in St-Paul (Minnesota, USA) working on the enzymology of diverse systems including for the last 20 years HSDs. In 2003 he had joined the faculty of the Minnesota Medical School's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health and just recently he thought his latest results were the culmination of his research.

Chuck and his colleagues found a link between high levels of the enzyme sulfatase in ovarian tumor tissue and a decrease in lifespan. Beyond that, he understood so well the fundamental principles and signs conversion kinetics that at least 10 years before

the cloning of the first enzyme of the 17β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase family, he had predicted that characteristics displayed by 17β -HSD activities could be explained only by the presence of at least two enzymes. One can imagine that in the eighties, this concept shook all the pre-established concepts.

During his career, Chuck has believed in these bases and he has used them successfully. Chuck focused on physiological impact of steroids rather than on methods and was by that always competitive. Finally the era of molecular biology, 10 years later, has confirmed his prediction of several HSD isoforms and today at least 14 isozymes of HSDs have been cloned.

On behalf of many colleagues, we would acknowledge Chuck for his skill, finesse and brilliant mentoring and support he gave to many young scientists during his career. He was a good friend and an inspiring scientist.

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