

In Memoriam – Ole Didrik Lærum, 9th President of ISAC

The 9th president for the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry y Ole Didrik Lærum Died January 24, 2023.

He was born 23 April 1940. After passing his medical examinations in 1965, Dr. Lærum was a Research Fellow at the Department of Pathology, the National Hospital, Oslo. Here he studied the connection between energy, cell division and cancer development in mouse skin for which he was awarded a PhD in 1969.

After this, Ole Didrik Lærum became a specialist in pathology at the National Hospital. He was appointed associate professor in experimental pathology and oncology and from 1980 he was full professor at the Department of Pathology, University of Bergen, Norway (UiB). He was the first scientist to use flow cytometry in Norway and arranged Society meetings in Voss in 1978 and XV Congress of the International Society for Analytical Cytology August 25-30. Bergen, Norway.

Lærum authored and coauthored more than 350 articles and 20 books and counseled nearly 40 PhD students. The main themes of his were mechanisms for cancer development and regulation of cell division, chronobiology, and cancer in the central nervous system. His research team developed a model for cancer development and invasion in the brain. In recent years, Lærum utilized the pathological archive material that has been collected since the 1930s for research purposes.

Lærum was Board chair in the Research Council of Norway, prorector at UiB 1984–89 and the principal 1990–95. At the university he inspired new fields of study, expanded cooperation with the business community, and the development of the international relationships with UiB.

Lærum emphasized the popularization of research and wrote on medical humor and cultural history. He also played alpine horns, naps, trumpet, and tuba. Ole Didrik Lærum was a member of several academies of sciences and was offered several honors degrees. Ole Didrik was a gentle person with a tremendous enthusiasm for cytometry and bringing the world community together. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Carl Fredrik Basso