

In memory of Eric Hultman

Roger Harris, Junipa Ltd., Newmarket, UK

Born October 1925 in Kristinehamn in Värmland province, Sweden, Professor Eric Helmer Hultman gained a Bachelors degree from the Swedish Pharmacology Institute (1946) before gaining a medical degree from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm (1956). It was whilst undertaking his PhD at St Eriks Hospital, Stockholm in the early 1960's that Eric Hultman, together with another PhD candidate Jonas Bergstrom, performed the first ever direct studies in humans on the changes in muscle glycogen with exercise, and the influence of diet on the resynthesis of this. The innovative studies undertaken at this time were in many respects the birth of modern human exercise and sports science, when applied to muscle and exercise metabolism, and the personal contribution made then by Professor Hultman is today recognised as being one of the most important in unlocking the potential for study in this discipline.

In 1967 Professor Hultman with others published the first study on the breakdown and resynthesis of ATP in human muscle in connection with exercise, and the role played by phosphorylcreatine in the maintenance of ATP supply and fatigue development in mixed muscle. Seminal papers in the 90's described the increase of the muscle content of creatine and phosphorylcreatine through the use of dietary creatine supplementation, a procedure which led to the wide-spread use of creatine supplements in sport today, and which re-awakened interest in creatine.

Professor Hultman, who's career involved positions at several Stockholm hospitals including Huddinge University Hospital and the Karolinska Institute, was the recipient of awards from the Swedish Medical Society (1966), McMaster University (1990), the honour award for Biochemistry and Exercise (2000) and a DSc from the University of Waterloo, and is today recognised as one of several giants in muscle and exercise biochemistry and physiology to emerge from Scandinavia during the 1960's.

Professor Eric H. Hultman

10th October 1925 to 9th March 2011

