

Obituary - Professor Frode Fonnum



1937 - 2023

(Photo from the ISN archives)

ESN Council with great sadness informs its members that Prof Frode Fonnum passed away on April 26, 2023.

Prof Frode Fonnum was a highly prominent scientist who contributed significantly to the development of neurochemistry. Frode gained his PhD from Oslo University (Norway) where he worked later at the Department of Biochemistry and, also, for many years at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment where he was Director of Research. His research covered wide areas of neurotransmitter metabolism and action, especially of acetylcholine and glutamate, with his seminal papers being "A rapid radiochemical method for the determination of choline acetyltransferase" (*J Neurochem* 1975, 24, 407-409) and "Glutamate: a neurotransmitter in mammalian brain" (*J Neurochem* 1984, 42, 1-11). His work was also focused on neurotoxicology and neuronal-glia interactions.

Frode made a huge contribution to the International and European Societies for Neurochemistry being ISN Secretary (1987-1991) and then ISN President (1991-1993). He was a member of ESN Council from 2006 to 2013. Frode was particularly noted for his knowledge of the development and history of the Societies serving both as ISN (2007-2013) and ESN Historian (2009-2013). Frode was closely linked with *Journal of Neurochemistry* serving as a Deputy Chief Editor.

Frode will be remembered not only as a pioneering neurochemist but also as a great friend and colleague to many of us and we will miss him dearly. Our deepest condolences go to his family and all those who knew him.

On behalf of ESN Council

Prof Johannes Hirrlinger,
ESN President

Prof Natalia Nalivaeva,
ESN Past-President

Prof Tony Turner
ESN Historian