

Leadership studies are an interest of mine. Over the past few years I've presented lectures on leadership in medicine at the Abbott Chief Resident Symposium before the annual Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA) conference. It is a pleasure to visit with the best and brightest of our specialty and share some of

my thoughts on leadership. Many authors believe leadership is learned from study, observation, and experience. Mayo provided a wonderful opportunity to observe and experience leadership firsthand. I will always be thankful for that experience and the common sense to take advantage of it.

Scandinavia and Mayo Anesthesia

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A new Mayo Clinic physician from Scandinavia was interviewing his first patient, a boy with his family, in the preop holding area prior to anesthesia. After the conversation, the new recruit told the child he would return to take him to the operating room when it was ready. Turning around, he heard the mom say to her boy, "Could you hear that the doctor spoke just like granny?"

The doctor was me, and it was the start of a fantastic time in my professional career which, for various reasons like roots, family, and so on, did not follow the initial plan. A couple of years later, I returned to Sweden, but I've come to appreciate that once you have worked at Mayo, you never leave the place. Hence, the networking, all the interactions, and the truckloads of correspondence not only with Mayo employees but also with lots of friends in and around Rochester. These have kept Mayo very much alive for me and my family ever since.

After returning to Sweden, I became the clinical and academic chair of anesthesiology at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. In addition to this responsibility, I have also become heavily involved in the selection process for choosing the winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Since 2000, I have also been president of the Scandinavian Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SSAI). My term in this office expires this year. In this capacity, it was a pleasure to find several Mayo anesthesiologists participating in the latest SSAI meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 2005. These biennial SSAI meetings have

become truly international meetings (about 40 nations participated in Reykjavik). It was nice to meet so many friends, old and new, and to once again have the opportunity to bridge the "old" with the "new" Scandinavia. The way medicine, in particular anesthesiology in its broadest sense, is practiced at Mayo and in Scandinavia is similar, and this was frequently illustrated at the Reykjavik meeting. In the era of ever improving communications worldwide, it seems logical to strengthen already established bonds and create new ones in order to develop practice, science, and teaching for the benefit of our patients and their safety.



Ulla and Sten Lindahl at the Mayo Anesthesia Alumni Reception during the ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, 2005.