

13. Belfast 1998

The 13th Annual Workshop was a small affair which took place in Belfast just before the annual meeting of the European Society for Pediatric Research. Again the venue was the Europa Hotel although by this time Belfast was a relatively peaceful city. The Omagh bomb which killed about 30 people in a small town about 70 miles from Belfast occurred about 2 weeks earlier. This atrocity did not deter the enthusiastic membership of the Curosurf Family. The 1st Nils W Svenningsen Memorial Lecture was given by Alan Jobe from Cincinnati on the subject of "Hot Topics in and New Strategies for Surfactant Research". Nils Svenningsen who was a Neonatologist from Lund had been a member of the Curosurf Family from the earliest days. He was a wonderful researcher, teacher, clinician and friend who unfortunately died in January 1998 from a disseminated melanoma. Chiesi and Serono generously agreed to support an annual lecture to be held in his memory during the surfactant workshops. Alan Jobe in his lecture mentioned Nils Svenningsen's wide ranging interests in clinical neonatology, pulmonary physiology and surfactant treatment. The other invited lectures and the abstracts were published in *Biology of the Neonate* [13]. They included a talk on synthetic surfactant protein analogues by Jan Johansson, a review of surfactant therapy in ARDS by Roger Spragg, a discussion on the role of oxidative stress in chronic lung disease by Ola Saugstad, a talk on the role of superoxide dismutase in the prevention of chronic lung disease by Jonathan Davis and a review of surfactant treatment in the very preterm infant by Roger Soll. In addition 23 free communications were presented covering a wide range of clinical and scientific topics.

The Social Events were limited due to the close proximity to the ESPR meeting but included a welcome reception and dinner at the Europa Hotel and a Gala Dinner at Belfast Castle overlooking Belfast Lough. About 75 years earlier the Titanic sailed down Belfast Lough on its maiden voyage before disastrously colliding with an iceberg while nearing America. In contrast, the 1998 workshop went off uneventfully.



ALAN JOBE - THE FIRST NILS SVENNINGSEN
MEMORIAL LECTURER



BELFAST CASTLE WHERE THE GALA DINNER WAS HELD