

The Eero Tala Fund

Professor of Pulmonary Diseases who modernized the Paimio Sanatorium

The fund was established with funds donated by colleagues, students and friends to celebrate Professor Tala's 60th birthday. The purpose of the fund is to promote international collaboration at the University of Turku Pulmonary Diseases Clinic primarily by funding visits to Turku by international experts in the field of pulmonary diseases. The fund carries out this task primarily through allocating grants to invite an international lecturer for the Eero Tala lecture.

Eero Otto Juhani Tala was born in Kiikka on 26 September 1931. His parents were farmers Otto Jalmari Tala and Olga Maria Tala, née Järvinen. Eero Tala completed his secondary school at Tyrvää in 1950 and began studying medicine. He graduated from the University of Helsinki as a Bachelor of Medicine in 1953 and from the University of Turku as a Licentiate of Medicine in 1957. In 1955, Eero Tala married gymnastics teacher Maija-Leena Teinilä (b. 1927). They had four children: Juhani was born in 1956, Leena in 1958, Marianna in 1960 and Eeva in 1965. The family lived in Paimio.

Eero Tala worked as an assistant in pharmacology at the University of Turku from 1957 to 1961 and as an assistant physician at the Internal Medicine Clinic from 1964 to 1967. He worked as a senior physician at the Southwest Finland Sanatorium from 1962 to 1964 and as a chief physician at the Pulmonary Diseases Clinic from 1968. One of Eero Tala's achievements was the renovation of the Paimio Sanatorium designed by Alvar Aalto into a modern pulmonary diseases clinic. In the 1960s, the former tuberculosis hospital became part of the Turku University Hospital as a hospital for pulmonary and internal medicine.

Eero Tala was thorough, systematic and uncompromising in his commitment to his work. As a researcher, he initially focused on the hormonal physiology of the adrenal gland. Tala later completed theses in both internal medicine and surgery, but after having worked as a physician at the Paimio Sanatorium, he finally chose pulmonary diseases as his field of specialisation. Tala completed his doctoral dissertation on the diagnostics of the carcinoma of the lung in 1967. Later on, he became passionate about fighting tuberculosis. He was Docent of Pulmonary Diseases at the University of Turku from 1968, Acting Professor of Pulmonary Diseases from 1968 to 1969 and Professor from 1970. He served as Dean of the



Eero Tala. Painting by Tala's favourite artist Aarre Heinen 1981, Turku University Hospital, Paimio Hospital

University of Turku Faculty of Medicine from 1983 to 1985. Tala published more than 250 studies in the field of medicine, internal medicine and pulmonary diseases. He was also passionate about supervising doctoral dissertations.

Eero Tala made several research trips to Sweden, Denmark, England, Germany and Hungary. Tala was a member of Duodecim's editorial board and the American College of Chest Physicians. He was an honorary member of the Hungarian Society for Pulmonary Diseases and a member of the Royal Society of Sciences at Uppsala. In addition, Tala served as President of the International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT) for several years. His military rank was medical lieutenant. He was awarded the decoration of Knight First Class of the Order of the White Rose of Finland and the Silver Medal of the Organisation for Respiratory Health in Finland.

The Paimio Sanatorium also became a cultural pastime for Eero Tala, and he wrote several articles on the topic. He was also interested in photography, cine filming and painting. Eero Tala died in Turku on 20 June 2005 at the age of 73 after having been ill for a long time.

Text: Osuuskunta Sigillum / Terhi Kivistö



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The purpose of the Turku University Foundation is to support and promote the activities of the University of Turku. The Foundation carries out its task by allocating grants from the profits of its funds. The total value of the funds is approximately 74 million euros.