

Etta Pisano, M.D.

I literally owe my career to Sven Paulin. When I was a senior resident, the chief of Breast Imaging at BI, Lucy Hann decided she was going to get married and move to NYC. Sven really wanted to find someone to replace her. I think he asked everyone in the entire department who was already on faculty, including the most obvious candidate, Ferris Hall. Ferris hates administrative stuff so he told Sven that he could mentor whoever Sven got to do it in breast imaging but that he did NOT want to do it himself. Everyone else just said "HELL NO!". That is until Sven got to me. I was still a resident, a fourth year, about to take my boards. I had accepted a job at BI for one year. My husband was finishing up his ophthalmology residency and I needed to find something to do for a year before we relocated back to North Carolina, where my husband had grown up and we had attended med school together (at Duke). We had a small child, a 2 year old, and I was really looking forward to working part time for the year that my husband, Jan, finished up.

When Sven approached me to discuss my becoming chief of breast imaging, he did not ASK if I wanted to do it (he was probably tired of people just flatly refusing to do it by then), he said "Etta, this is your FUTURE. I KNOW it is. You ARE going to be our next chief of Breast Imaging." I protested. I tried to refuse. I cajoled. I really tried hard to turn him down, but he would NOT take NO for an answer.

So, I became the Chief of Breast Imaging at a Harvard teaching hospital for a year. And, Ferris mentored me in the role. It definitely helped me land my next job, Chief of Breast Imaging at UNC...where I served for the next 16 years. Without that first job, and Sven's great insight into my talents as a breast imager (whatever was motivating him...likely desperation to get someone to take the job), I would not have had the career I've had, I'm certain.

So, thanks, Sven. I guess you really did know what my future was, even though I myself did not have a clue!

Herb Abrams, M.D.

To the Multitudes of Paulin Admirers:

I would love to be with you tonight, celebrating the birthday and the life of a major figure in modern diagnostic radiology. While many of us were approaching the visualization of the coronary arteries, Sven Paulin, in a seminal thesis that was literally a first of its kind, translated and defined the clinical and electrical meaning of the abnormal arteriogram in man. His observations have stood the test of time, and he has been a central contributor for the past five decades to the visualization, understanding and changing management of coronary disease.

A man for all seasons, he exuberates and enthusiastically at a level that can only be moderated by the skeptical glance of Brigitte, which needs no accompanying words to channel his passions in the direction of reason.

We know him in many roles: scientist, clinician, teacher, mentor, advisor, husband, father, insatiable gatherer of institutional gossip. But he brings to mind the children's program "Mr. Rogers," which started out with two statements: 1, it's a beautiful day, and 2, you are my friend, you are special.

And that's what is important to so many of us, that Sven and Brigitte are our friends, thoughtful, perceptive, warm, kind and good humored, with 80 wonderful years behind him and the best yet to come.

Love from Herb and Marilyn

Igor Laufer, M.D.

Hi Sven,

I can't believe you're turning 80. It seems like just a few years ago, the 1971-72 season, when you and I were starting out as chiefs, you-chief of Radiology, and me-chief of the residents. Imagine my excitement on meeting my first Swedish Jew! (you are Jewish aren't you?). It was one of the most formative years of my life and you and the BI are never very far from my thoughts. One of the great thrills of my life is to see my good friend Herb-my first hire when I came to Penn, follow you and Morry as Chief of Radiology.

Bernice and I wish all the best in life for you and your wonderful family. We wish we could be there to celebrate with you, but as a Jew, you will understand that I had commitments at our synagogue this weekend.

Happy, happy birthday and as we say "bis hoondred und tsventsig" (to one hundred and twenty).

Igor

Bob Edelman, M.D.

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on the occasion of Dr. Sven Paulin's 80th birthday. Sven is someone with many remarkable and admirable traits, both professional and personal. Perhaps most notable are his perpetual idealism and optimism. These are rare traits in an increasingly jaded professional world driven more by economics than concern for the human condition. Moreover, his contagious affability has persisted over a long, successful career in academic radiology, with its origins in his early, pioneering work in the field of coronary angiography.

Many years ago, I had the opportunity to read through Sven's doctoral thesis and was astonished (and humbled) by the scientific quality, thoroughness, and integrity embodied in this lengthy treatise. Moreover, if not for Sven's patience, understanding, and long-standing support, my own very successful academic career would have fizzled early, due to a combination of naivety and adverse external influences. I am proud to have known him as a true mentor and friend, and was pleased to acknowledge this fact in the dedication to my recently published textbook.

With deep regrets at being unable to attend on this great occasion, and with warmest wishes for the next quarter century of his illustrious career,

Bob