



Professor Toivo Jürimäe in 2008  
(Photo: Andres Tennus / University of Tartu)

## IN MEMORIAM

### *Professor Toivo Jürimäe*

**9.05.1949–5.10.2015**

An eminent sport scientist from the University of Tartu, *Professor emeritus* Toivo Jürimäe, whose research was related with sport pedagogy, exercise physiology and kinanthropometry, has passed away on 5 October 2015.

Toivo Jürimäe graduated from the University of Tartu in 1973 with the diploma of physical education teacher and worked at school for a short period of time. In 1977 he returned to his *alma mater* as lecturer and earned the degree of Candidate of Sciences in biology (equal to PhD), having studied for his thesis the physical abilities of young endurance athletes. Since 1992 until becoming *Professor emeritus* Toivo Jürimäe was Professor of Sport Pedagogy at the University of Tartu.

His research was focused on relationships between different anthropometrical parameters, as well as the health status and physical performance characteristics in children, young athletes and the elderly. More than 200 scientific publications in international journals and numerous monographs sum up the contribution of Toivo Jürimäe to sport sciences. Under his supervision, the PhD degree was received by eleven doctoral students, including international students from Latvia, Lithuania and Italy.

Toivo Jürimäe was very successful in launching and developing contacts with fellow scientists and institutions worldwide. He organised annual summer schools for PhD students in sport sciences that enjoyed great popularity among students from the Baltic states and from other European countries. Thanks to Toivo Jürimäe, research cooperation between the Faculty of Exercise and Sport Sciences of the University of Tartu and several universities across the world (Tel Aviv University, University of Graz, Liverpool John Moores University, Kazan University, University of North Texas, Catholic University of Leuven, among others) resulted in numerous scientific publications and projects for academic staff and students' exchange. Toivo

Jürimäe valued highly the cooperation between the Baltic countries in terms of sport sciences and initiated a number of related events and activities. He was the main organiser of the first congress for Baltic sport scientists in 2008 in Tartu, in the following year the Baltic Sport Science Society (BSSS) was established, Toivo Jürimäe having been elected its first President. During the BSSS annual conferences, PhD students have had the opportunity to present their research results in the special session – this idea originated from Toivo Jürimäe. Estonia has hosted three congresses of international scientific organisations: in 2001 *7th International Conference of Sport Kinetics* (Tartu); in 2003 *23rd ICPAFR International Sport Science Symposium* (Tartu), and in 2007 *24th Pediatric Work Physiology Meeting* (Tallinn, Laulasmaa). The reputation and renown of Toivo Jürimäe among fellow scientists was the main argument in securing the organisation of these events for the University of Tartu.

In the Faculty of Exercise and Sport Sciences, Toivo Jürimäe has headed the Institute of Sport Pedagogy and acted as Vice-Dean in the area of research. For a great number of years he was the honorary member of the board of the Estonian Physical Education Union. In 1990 Toivo Jürimäe established the university-based journal for publications concerning various aspects of sport sciences and was its Editor-in-Chief until 2012. Since 1996 this journal bears the name of *Acta Kinesiologiae Universitatis Tartuensis* and it has currently the international editorial board and is indexed in several international databases.

The contribution of Toivo Jürimäe into sport sciences lives on – the publications are being referred to and his former students continue to be active in the academic field. We mourn Toivo Jürimäe as a great scientist and a valued colleague.

Faculty of Exercise and Sport Sciences of the University of Tartu