

Professor Arne Ljungqvist

If one person above all others is responsible for establishing the IAAF as the leading international sports federation in the fight against doping, that person is Professor Arne Ljungqvist. Over 30 years on the IAAF Council and over 20 years as chair of the IAAF's Medical and Anti-Doping Commission, Arne created and shaped the first ever anti-doping program in athletics—indeed the first recognized program of its kind in sport generally. His foresight back in the 1980s as to the best approach to take in the fight against doping was truly visionary and he must take huge pride in the knowledge that the rest of the anti-doping movement largely followed the standard that he first set.

Arne and I have always been very close friends. We were elected to the IAAF Council on the same day in Montreal in 1976 and, when I subsequently became president of the IAAF in 1999, it was a great source of comfort to me that Arne was there as my senior vice president. He always provided huge support to me as IAAF president and I

regularly called upon his wisdom and experience, not only in matters of anti-doping but in matters concerning athletics generally. When Arne stood down from the IAAF in 2007 to concentrate on his duties at the IOC and WADA, it was certainly a great loss to the IAAF, but I would like to think that we have since continued to wage the fight against doping in athletics in a way that has met with Arne's approval. If not, I am quite sure that he would have let us know by now!

His achievements in the fight against doping in athletics are far too numerous to list here, but I wanted to convey a couple of my own personal memories of Arne's work at the IAAF.

Firstly, Arne is someone who staunchly believes that anti-doping measures should be applied equally to all, no matter the level, stature, or geographic location of the person or organization concerned. For years, Arne made it his personal mission to challenge the policy of our largest member federation in the USA not to notify the IAAF of the names of U.S. athletes who had been cleared of doping at national level. This was against IAAF rules as they were applied to our remaining 200+ federations, and neither Arne nor the IAAF could accept the USA's position regardless of their considerable influence within the sports organization. Needless to say, after years of acrimonious

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dispute, the Americans were finally brought into line.

Arne has always commanded the greatest trust and respect from the anti-doping community worldwide and when, for example, the BALCO doping conspiracy broke in 2003, the then newly-formed USADA had no hesitation in calling upon Arne in confidence for his assistance in casting the net as wide as possible to catch those who were involved from athletics. This meant not only testing (and catching) a number of elite athletes in the lead up to our 2003 World Championships in Paris, but also agreeing, in secret talks with the Paris-accredited laboratory, to store all samples from the championships to be reanalysed after the event. The manner in which USADA, law enforcement and the IAAF were able to work seamlessly together in unraveling the BALCO doping conspiracy has since served as a blueprint of cooperation for the anti-doping movement and Arne must take enormous credit for his leadership in this regard.

Finally, I cannot pass up the opportunity to touch upon the vexed question of doping sanctions. Arne and I have always shared the same opinion about the need to have the strongest possible sanctions for serious doping offenders, a subject that seems to have been debated for as long as I can remember and is once again at the top of the agenda at this year's World Anti-Doping

Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. In the early days of the fight against doping, the IAAF was one of the few international sports federations that had a four-year sanction and indeed, as long ago as 1993, we banned an Olympic champion for four years for failing to appear for a doping test. To the dismay of many in our sport, we were obliged for legal reasons to revert to two years to bring us into conformity with the rest of the sporting world, but our members and athletes never stopped canvassing for a return to 4 years and I recall at our Congress in Osaka, Japan, in 2007 that the matter was very nearly put to a vote on this point against the IAAF Council. As ever, Arne put on a stellar performance in persuading our members to stand down, but not before promising them that the IAAF would take up their battle before WADA and this is what has been done. It has taken a long time in coming but we finally hope to see our labours bear some fruit when the next edition of the World Anti-Doping Code is released at the end of this year.

In summary, a man of the strongest principles and with an unwavering commitment to the cause, Arne is a truly remarkable person and surely one of his kind in the fight against doping today.

Arne, the IAAF owes you a considerable debt of gratitude. We salute you and thank you.