

The Crafoord days, April 2022

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Dear Editor,

We are all quite familiar with the prestigious Nobel Prizes given annually to honor individuals who have 'conferred the greatest benefit to humankind'. The Crafoord prize is yet another equally prestigious annual science prize awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in partnership with the Crafoord foundation in Sweden. The Crafoord foundation was established by Holger Crafoord and his wife Anna- Greta Crafoord, to complement the Nobel prizes in disciplines, like astronomy, mathematics, geosciences and polyarthritis. The prize is currently worth 7,00,000 USD.

Holger Crafoord, who was a Swedish industrialist, suffered from polyarthritis and that was the reason for honoring scientists making a progress in this particular field. In the year 2021, Dr Dan Kastner, the 'father of autoinflammatory diseases' was awarded the Crafoord prize for his significant contribution to the field of autoinflammatory diseases, which could cause polyarthritis. In his honour, a one-day symposium in autoinflammatory diseases was

conducted. A group of clinicians and scientists working in this exciting field met and presented their work during this one-day symposium on April 25. Dr Kastner delivered his acceptance speech that day and shared his experiences of working in the field of autoinflammatory diseases. These rare monogenic diseases with phenotypes similar to common multifactorial autoimmune diseases provide insights into the pathogenesis of the latter group of disorders.

I was humbled by Dr Kastner's knowledge and intellectual humility. This one-day meeting was an opportunity to meet scientists working in the group of these rare disorders and enthused my mind to pursue the work.

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