

Why a conference on SIPE now?

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On November 7th a Swedish couple, Ulf Pettersson and Kim Linh Pettersson, with an experience of more than 400 dives, made a dive in Thailand. This was the first dive the second day on a live aboard tour. The previous day, with two dives, had been uneventful, but Linh had aborted a dive some days earlier because of breathing problems, which resolved quickly after reaching surface. After about 8 - 10 minutes into the present dive at about 24 m Lin indicated a problem with the mouthpiece/breathing equipment and the dive guide brought the group towards the surface. At 5 m Linh got a question regarding her well-being and signaled that she still had problems with the breathing. Only seconds later pinkish foam came out of Linh's mouth and she lost her conscience. At surface more foam came from Linh's mouth and she was still unconscious. Five minutes later, on board the rescue boat, Linh was given mouth to mouth resuscitation. CPR was continued during transport by the coastguard and was not stopped, and Lin declared dead, until the hospital was reached 4 h later.

The devastated husband was told, by the hospital doctor, that the cause of death was decompression illness, which was difficult to understand for a diver with long experience. In the current situation, however, the diagnose was not objected to.

When back in Sweden, Ulf tried to find answers to what could have caused Linh respiratory problems at depth after only 10 minutes dive. Ulf did not find any explanation or answers in the scuba literature and he called me. My interpretation was that it was immersion pulmonary edema that had caused the tragic death, a condition that Ulf had never heard about. Ulf's immediate reaction was that this condition should be better explained to students in diving courses, but maybe also to instructors and even diving doctors, based on Ulf's experience from Thailand. This led to the decision to donate money in the name of his wife Linh to spread the information on SIPE to reduce the number of fatalities in the future.

The Swedish Aviation and Naval Medical Association, SANMA, received the donation with a promise to arrange the workshop/conference that we now attend. During the spring 2017 our attention was drawn to the fact that it was not only diving but also other watersports that had IPE cases. Triathlon and "Island to island runs" being among them. We will today hear a personal witness from an anesthesiologist who is also a triathlon runner. In the June issue of *Läkartidningen*, Dr Annika Braman Eriksson and colleagues presented medical experiences from a famous long distance cold water swim. Today Dr Braman is here to give us further details. In addition to this we, in the planning group, have done our best to meet the wish of the donor to invite international specialists through the invitation of Professor Richard Moon USA and doctor Peter Wilmshurst UK. Though Dr Wilmshurst I got my first knowledge of clinical problems with IPE in diving, and Prof Moon is today leading a group of scientists working on IPE. With this list of speakers and a panel that can answer our questions, I am convinced that we today will get a better understanding of SIPE so we then can help others to avoid SIPE and/or at least quickly abort a water activity when struck by sudden dyspnea in water.