

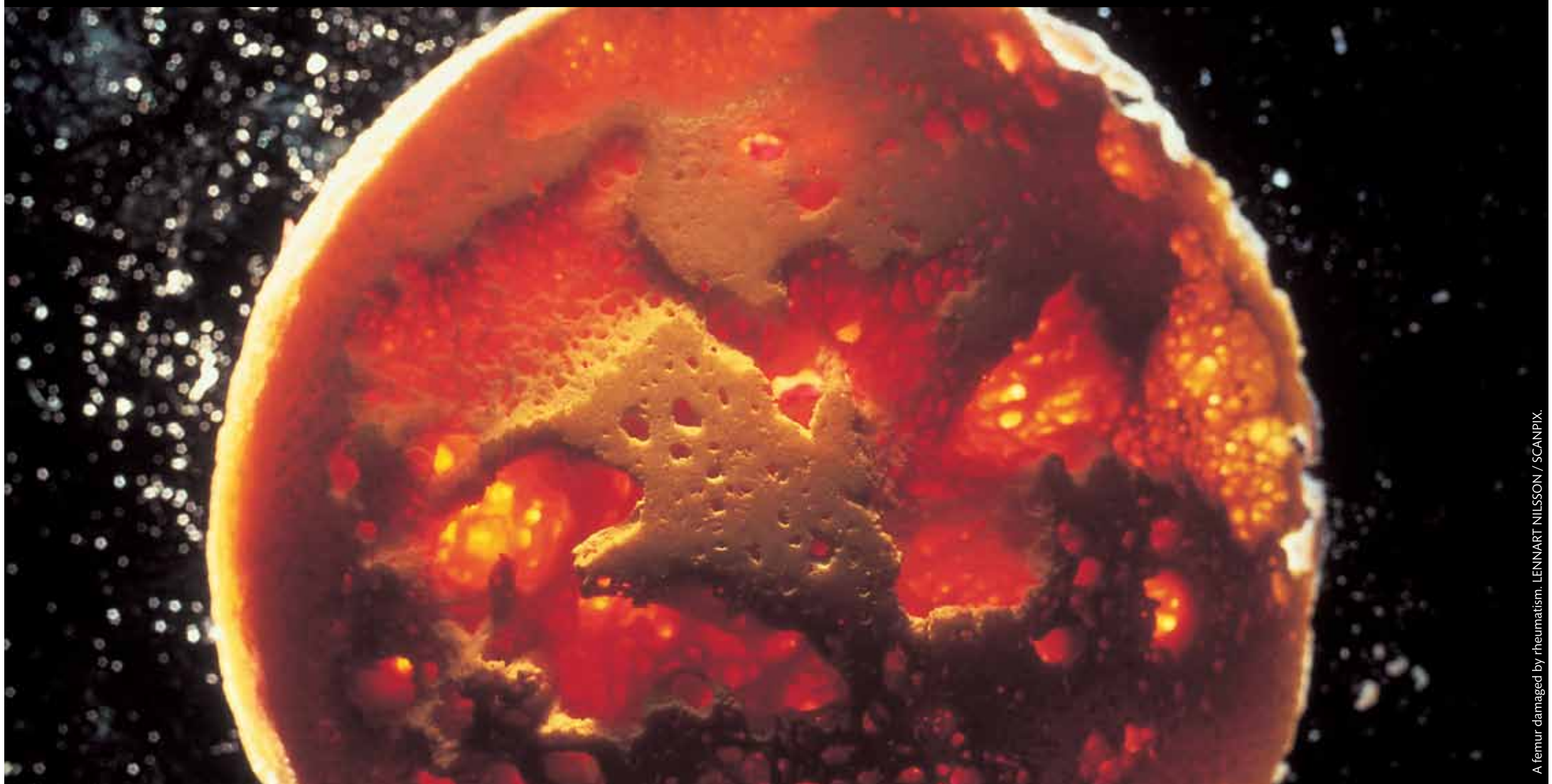
THE EUROLIFE DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS:

What can be learned from Rheumatoid Arthritis as a prototype auto-immune disease?

Seminar by Professor Tom W. J. Huizinga, Head of the Department of Rheumatology, Leiden University Medical Center

The Leksell Auditorium, Eugeniahemmet, T3:02 | September 16, 2011 | 3.00–4.00 pm

Followed by reception. Welcome!



A femur damaged by rheumatism. LENNART NILSSON / SCANPIX.



Professor Tom W. J. Huizinga has contributed fundamental insights into the pathogenesis of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). After contributing to the understanding of immune-complex mediated diseases by discovering that one of the Fc-receptors was a phospho-inositol linked protein, he studied the relevance of genetic variation, first regarding Fc-receptors and later regarding cytokines, by showing the relevance of genetic variation for different phenotypic traits. Based on clinical and genetic analysis it was concluded that RA consisted of two different subsets. To study the disease processes that develop during the different phases of disease, a longitudinal cohort was created in which the characteristics of autoantibody responses during different phases of clinical development were described. Intervention trials were designed to study whether disease progression in autoimmunity is reversible using autoantibody characteristics as biomarkers. These antibody characteristics were shown to be indicative of specific pathways contributing to pathogenesis, such as IgE-anti-citrinullated antibodies that activate mast cell degranulation in RA. This subsequently led to personalized medicine with anti-IgE drug in subsets of patients. Tom Huizinga has served on the editorial board of many of the major rheumatology journals as well as PLOS Medicine and has published more than 300 articles in leading journals.

eurolife

network of european universities in life sciences



**Karolinska
Institutet**