

Björn Lindman was chair professor in physical chemistry atLund University, Sweden since 1978, now emeritus.

Björn Lindman received a Chemical Engineering degree from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, in 1966. In 1971, Björn defended his PhD thesis at Lund University. In 1971 he became a Lecturer (Associate Professor) in the Physical Chemistry Department and in 1978 he achieved the position of Chair Professor in the Division of Physical Chemistry 1, Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Lund University. In 1998, he was appointed Professor of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Coimbra, and since 2013 has been a Visiting Professor at Nanyang Technical University, Singapore. He was Guest Professor at MidSweden Univ., Sundsvall, Sweden from 2014 to 2019. His work has been recognized with many awards, including the Unilever Award, Royal Institute of Technology; Arrhenius Award of the Swedish Chemical Society; Langmuir Award—ACS; Bror Holmberg Medal, Swedish Chemical Society; Overbeek Gold Medal of the European Colloid and Interface Society; and Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists in 2015. He is a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Björn published his first paper in 1968 on the nuclear quadrupole relaxation of quaternary ammonium bromides. He then paved the way for the use of NMR self-diffusion in the characterization of self-assembly in colloidal multicomponent systems. He was also the first to quantitatively interpret the experimental self-diffusion coefficients of multicomponent systems and their dependence on the diffusion coefficients of each species and corresponding mole fraction. This quantitative relationship is known as Lindman's law. In addition, Björn has made seminal contributions in areas involving ion binding, surfactants and polymer–surfactant systems. In the last 15 years, Björn has also been pivotal in the interpretation of the cellulose dissolution phenomena in different solvents, including water, by highlighting the role of intermolecular hydrophobic interactions. This contribution demonstrates Björn's restless spirit, and how he is always ready for new scientific challenges, presenting major contributions for the development of science.

In his academic and scientific career, Björn's ability to attract doctoral students (he has supervised over 40 PhD theses) and to establish collaborations with researchers around the world is also worthy of mention. He concluded very early on that science is a collective design and that discussion and collaborations are the most effective way to reach the proposed goals. Thus, he was one of the founders of the European Colloid and Interface Society.

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