

Tribute

Jens Ove Andreassen: Seventy Years Young

Bakland LK. Jens Ove Andreassen: Seventy Years Young. Dent Traumatol 2005; 21: 246–247. © Blackwell Munksgaard, 2005.

Leif K. Bakland, DDS

Professor of Endodontics, School of Dentistry, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350, USA

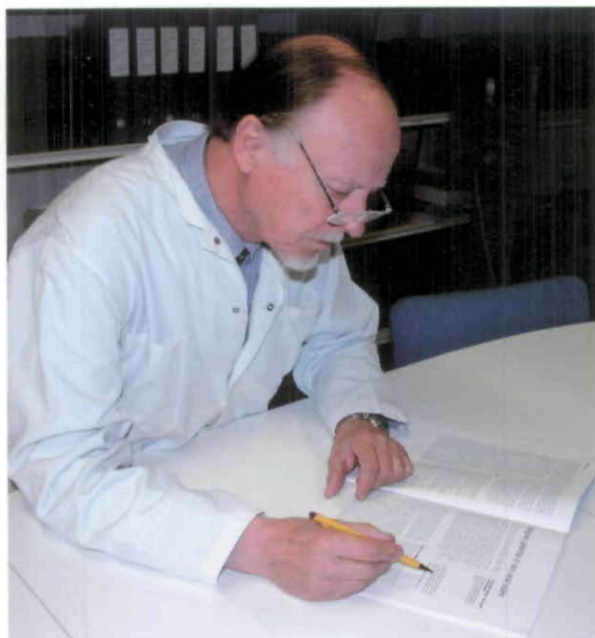


Fig. 1. Doing what he loves to do: Dr. J. O. Andreassen preparing another manuscript.

Diseases often have been named after the person who discovers, describes, or contributes significantly to their understanding. If dental trauma were to be named after one person, it would be Jens Ove Andreassen DDS, Odont. Dr h.c. (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden), Odont. Dr h.c. (Dental School, Newcastle University, UK), F.R.C.S. (Fellow, Royal College of Surgeons, London, UK).

Dental traumatology, the study of traumatic injuries to teeth, has been a life-long passion for Dr Andreassen. It has been an interest of his as he himself, as a child, had a bicycle accident, which resulted in a luxated tooth, which subsequently required treatment. The interest grew early on in his professional life, has continued over the years and shows no sign of diminishing even though he is, at the age of 70, entering retirement from his duties at the Copenhagen University Hospital (Rigshospitalet).

As this issue of *Dental Traumatology* is going to press, Dr Andreassen is putting the finishing touches on the 4th edition of the *Textbook and Color Atlas of Traumatic Injuries to the Teeth* (Blackwell Munksgaard). This text has rightly been called the 'Bible' of dental trauma and is recognized worldwide as the primary source of information on the topic.

Outside of his circle of friends and colleagues in Denmark, the rest of his legions of friends around the world became acquainted with Dr Andreassen through his publications and lectures.

In addition to the *Textbook*, his publications of journal articles, textbook chapters, and six additional textbooks exceed 250. A recent collaborative effort, *Traumatic Dental Injuries – A Manual* (Blackwell Munksgaard) has, in its first and second editions, been one of the publisher's best-sellers in the last few years. His publications include, in addition to dental trauma, the areas of tooth replantation, transplantation, and tooth impactions.

With the exception of Antarctica, Dr Andreassen has lectured on every continent around the globe. It would be impossible to estimate how many

thousands of dentists and other health care providers have enjoyed the enthusiastic lecture style and benefited from the sharing of information that is always Dr Andreasen's goal in giving lectures and other scientific presentations.

His research efforts in dental trauma commenced when he joined Drs J.J. Pindborg and E. Hjørting-Hansen at the Department of Oral Medicine and Oral Surgery at the Copenhagen University Hospital. Both of these professors provided guidance and collaboration in research projects. Dr Andreasen feels that, of all the research in which he has been involved, what stands out is the identification he made with Hjørting-Hansen of the resorptive categories following injury to a tooth. In particular, the recognition of inflammatory resorption (now also called infection-related resorption) has resulted in significant improvement both in the understanding and the management of traumatized teeth. The recognition of the role of the dental pulp in trauma has been essential in the understanding of the biology of dental trauma. The contribution of elucidating the pulpal factor in trauma resulted in his being awarded honorary membership in the American Association of Endodontists (2001).

Research in which Dr Andreasen has been involved has contributed to the development of treatment guidelines for traumatic dental injuries. This came about, not in the expected fashion of just making recommendations following research results, but instead, his interest in treatment was in part stimulated by his association with Dr Jørgen Rud, an eminent oral surgeon in Copenhagen who taught Dr Andreasen the value of evidence-based dentistry and to doubt almost all published rules for clinical procedures. As a result, even though he himself has contributed many recommendations for trauma treatment procedures, no one is quicker to question

the wisdom of what we have been, and are, doing clinically.

This approach to question 'established' treatment procedures and to collect data on what works and what does not work, has been a major research goal that he has shared with many collaborators worldwide including Frances Andreasen in Copenhagen and Miomir Cvek from the Eastman Institute in Stockholm.

He has inspired many of us to go into research in the field of dental traumatology. His initiative to encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to dental trauma has proved to be a success over the years. No specialty would have been able on its own to develop this field. Dr Andreasen's own interest in the whole field and his coordinating role for specialist researchers from all over the world has been a key to success. That he has understood the importance of many disciplines playing a role in dental traumatology can best be recognized by those of us who have had the privilege of listening to Dr Andreasen's summaries of presentations at the World Congresses on Dental Traumatology – he highlights all areas covered in these summaries.

Recognition for what Dr Andreasen has accomplished in the first 70 years of his life has been most deserved. He has received at least 18 awards from numerous organizations around the world. He was the founding president of the International Association of Dental Traumatology, an organization to which he has contributed leadership, inspiration, and professional expertise, a role for which he most recently was honored at the XIV Congress on Dental Traumatology in Reykjavik, Iceland, in May 2005.

On August 19, it is expected that a resounding 'happy birthday, Jens' will be heard around the world.

This document is a scanned copy of a printed document. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material.