

Professor Michael Tagger retires



Professor Michael Tagger received his D.M.D. degree from the Hebrew University and Hadassah School of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem in 1959, graduated from the Graduate Endodontic program at the University of Illinois College of Dental Medicine in 1962, and in 1964 received his M.S. degree in Histology from the same school. After returning to Israel, Prof. Tagger founded the Department of Endodontology in the Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine at Tel Aviv University, and was its first chair until 2001. Prof. Tagger played a major role in shaping the dental school in its early days, as well as the Department of Endodontology. As a result of his efforts and personal reputation, Endodontics was established as an independent department which is very active in teaching undergraduate and graduate students, research, community activities and continuing education.

On a national level, Professor Tagger's academic and administrative activities have resulted in the recognition of Endodontics as a formal specialty by the Israel Dental Association and the Ministry of Health.

Professor Tagger served as a member and chair of many of the important committees of the dental school, such as the curriculum committee, teacher-students committee and continuing education committee. Under his leadership, the teachers of the department are held in high esteem by the students, for the high level of theoretical and clinical instruction.

Professor Tagger led the department to become one of the leading endodontic departments in basic and clinical research. He published numerous articles, including chapters in books and scientific papers in leading professional journals. He has frequently been invited to lecture on various topics of Endodontics throughout the world. Professor Tagger served on the editorial board of the IEJ for many years, and in 1996-1997 he was Visiting Professor at the University of Loma Linda School of Dentistry, Loma Linda, California, USA.

The peak of Professor Tagger's academic and administrative activities was no doubt in 1995, when he was elected President of the European Society of Endodontology at the Biannual Congress held in Tel Aviv, a position of which he was very proud and in which he was very successful.

Professor Tagger was a founding member of the Israeli Endodontic Society, a life member of the AAE and IADR, and represented Israel in the dental division of the ISO. In 2000, Prof. Tagger received the most distinguished award of the Israel Dental Association for his lifetime contribution to dental education and research in Israel.

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