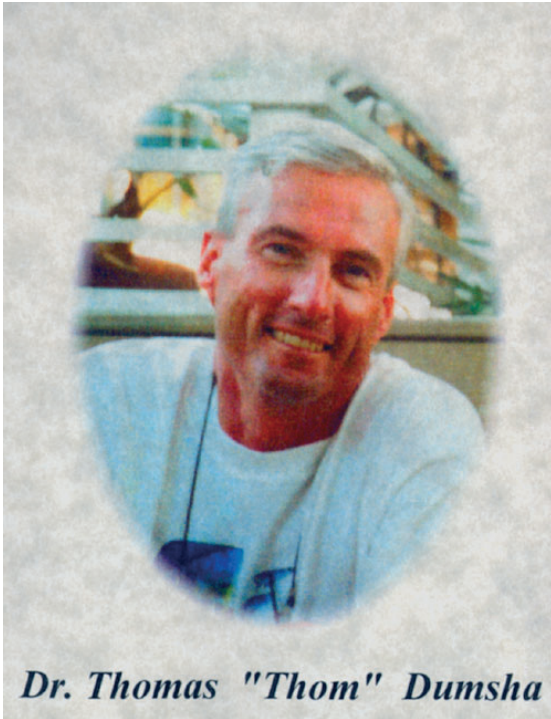


Professor Thomas 'Thom' C. Dumsha, 1951–2007



The Endodontic world lost a consummate professional and I lost a true friend recently – Dr Thomas 'Thom' C. Dumsha, who died of pancreatic cancer at his home in Ellicott City, Maryland, USA on March 22nd. Thom had retired from his position as Professor and Department Chair of Endodontics, at the University of Maryland Dental School in 2005 to open a practice limited to Endodontics in Columbia, Maryland.

Thom was born in Catonsville, Maryland and graduated from Mount St. Joseph High School in 1969. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland in 1973 followed by his dental degree, his endodontic certificate of advanced specialty education and two master's degrees – one in physiology and one in information systems, all from the University of Maryland.

Thom was accepted into the Advanced Specialty Education program in Endodontics in 1977 based on his educational and clinical prowess, his energy and his enthusiasm. In 1981 he was hired as an Assistant

Professor of Endodontics at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland, where he progressed from Assistant to Associate and finally to Full Professor and Department Chair at that institution. During this time he dedicated his efforts to research on tooth trauma and its sequelae and published numerous important articles in this regard. Thom had gained an international reputation for his work in trauma and lectured in multiple countries in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Russia, South and Central America. Thom was uncompromising in his professional pursuits and his patient treatment.

Thom was also a consummate boatman, as he and his family, Carol his wife, and Meagan and Tad his children, lived on their boat, the *Pro Re Nata* every summer from 1986 to 1996. He was also a skilled fisherman. In a 2001 competition he caught a 421 lb blue marlin that was 29 lbs shy of winning the top prize of \$500,000. Each year he participated in fishing contests along the Atlantic seaboard.

Thom was a steadfast and genuine friend. He was the best man in my wedding and we spent countless hours together writing the four editions of the *Problem Solving in Endodontics* text and the *Clinician's Endodontic Handbook*. Thom gave my children their first experience in 'crabbing' on the *Pro Re Nata I*. We often motored throughout the Chesapeake Bay, which was Thom's favourite haunt, especially when going to Oxford, Maryland on the Eastern shore. We rode horses together in the snow in Lake Louise, Alberta, climbed what seemed to be mountains at the time, outside of Montreal, ate mounds of sushi, and shared many cordial toasts ('Stoli' in particular) in cities around the world. Thom was a teacher par excellence, trusted and loyal confidant and always there when I needed the support of a true friend – and he will be dearly missed.

For those wishing to sign a guest book, the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper has set up a website at <http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?I=GB000086898584>

Thom served on the editorial review board of the *IEJ* from 1993–2007.

Jim Gutmann

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