

Tribute to Dr. med. dent. Wladimir Adlivankine



Dr. med.dent Wladimir Adlivankine was a founding member and honorary member of the Swiss Society for Endodontology (SSE). Wladimir was a character who endowed those that knew him through his fascinating life with only the best memories.

He was born in 1926 in Alexandria, Egypt, to parents originally from Russia. This explains his lingual acrobatics as he juggled eight languages – Russian, German, French, English, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic.

His ability to master all these different languages was closely linked to his readiness and pleasure to meet other people. He was of an immense culture, extremely well read, a reliable and loyal friend who paid special attention to the personal angles associated with friendly human relationships. This facet of his personality has deeply impacted every dental society to which he contributed.

Before becoming a dentist, he studied at the faculty of Medicine in Lausanne, guided by parental preference. However, unconvinced by rote learning and with youthful abandon, he changed his life and travelled to Brazil. Here, he became, for three years, the director of a factory making gum-based obturators for medical containers – perhaps a first inkling of his future chosen speciality.

Realizing that this kind of occupation would not fulfil his life objectives, he found himself at another crossroads. At this point, he decided to go up to Bern to read

dentistry. Several years later, he dissertated with a doctoral thesis supervised by Professor André Schroeder, published in Bern and Heidelberg. The topic was, 'Electrosurgery in Endodontics', an exciting and promising area of research at that time. Sadly, some monkeys paid with their lives during the experimentation.

During his programme in Bern, he met and subsequently worked with the endodontic pioneer, Peter Guldener. Between the two men, a true friendship was born and, inevitably as a spin-off from this, his involvement in Endodontology began in earnest.

As a matter of course, Wladimir became the treasurer of the European Society of Endodontology (ESE) and thanks to his financial skills, he was a money manager without equal, he nurtured the funds of the ESE, and they grew favourably. This was not his first try as treasurer since he has been already, during his dental studies, been the treasurer of the International Association of Dental Students.

In 1977, he opened his own dental practice continuing his international activities.

In 1991, Peter Guldener, Michel Cergneux, Wladimir Adlivankine and Ram Nair founded the Swiss Society for Endodontology (SSE). Inevitably, he was named treasurer of the SSE and built, as he did for the ESE, some good financial basis.

In recognition for his work for the ESE, the 'Wladimir Adlivankine Research Prize' was born and is awarded by the ESE Research Committee for the encouragement of research related to Endodontology.

He also became an honorary member of the SSE, and the annual SSE conference in January, stands in the calendar, as a touchstone of his brilliant work.

It seems appropriate that at this time of year, Autumn 2011, there was the ESE Conference in Rome. And perhaps with a nod to ESE history, we do not forget those, including Wladimir, who have helped us get to where we are now.

All the dental community misses him, and we address our warmest sympathy to Barbara, his wife, who stays very close to the Swiss endodontic community, giving a hand every time she can.

Dr. Patrick Sequeira

On behalf of the Swiss Society for Endodontology SSE

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