



**“It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.”**

—William Ernest Henley, “Invictus,” 1888

Per-Ingvar Brånemark

May 3, 1929–December 20, 2014

Per-Ingvar Brånemark died just before Christmas 2014. His extraordinary professional achievements confirmed the observation that many of the world’s great movements begin with one person’s work, often a single tenacious conviction. He unsurprisingly encountered many events that could have invalidated his data during his early studies—after all, setbacks and disappointments in a scientific career’s trajectory are frequent occurrences when working on the frontiers of knowledge. But he persisted in his thematic assumptions and introduced a treatment protocol that revolutionized orofacial rehabilitation.

Osseointegration, the outcome of Dr Brånemark’s pioneering research, has become an indispensable part of dentistry’s therapeutic repertoire. *The International Journal of Prosthodontics* readily and gratefully acknowledges this remarkable and enigmatic medical scholar’s role in bending prosthodontic and surgical treatment history. It also recognizes the profound influence he had on the career directions of so many clinical scientists and practitioners, including virtually all of us associated with this journal. The IJP, therefore, would be remiss if this tribute only recalled his seminal scientific breakthrough.

Dr Brånemark’s other legacy may best be summed up in the introductory stanza above. It asserts that courage and persistence shape individual determination and lives, which in turn create ripples of conviction that grow into a current of humanitarian engagement. Although only few have the opportunity to bend history the way Dr Brånemark did, all of us in the clinical health sciences rely on his principles to manage so many of the clinical challenges that confront us daily. Our mandate to raise and prolong patients’ quality of life has been enriched by both his example and legacy of replicating and replacing what has been lost in the orofacial region. His ethos has ensured that the totality of our collective response will write the history of our generation of health providers.

Our personal collaborative friendship with Per-Ingvar dated back almost half a century. His death is for us a sad, yet reassuring, reminder of the profound influence he had on our own careers. We share the gratitude of the innumerable health professionals and—above all—patients who were the beneficiaries of his courage, brilliance, and empathy.

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