

## *In Memoriam*

# **Prof. Georges Krygier, DDS, DSc (1938-2019) A visionary for international periodontology and founder of the IAP**

When I began my postgraduate training at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo; now the University at Buffalo, UB), I had a brief introduction to the graduate of the program that year, Georges Krygier. Little did I know at the time how significantly our paths would merge almost 20 years later, working together to advance the agenda of the International Academy of Periodontology. Georges, along with several leading periodontists around the world, founded the Academy several years before. The vision of the Academy was brilliant then and remains brilliant today. At the time, I was recruited to be a member of the next generation of leaders of the Academy to carry the vision forward. We worked together for 15 great years. The early years of the Academy were lean, and our travels to bring educational programs to various parts of the world were difficult, but Georges was committed to the Academy and played a central role in its ultimate success.



A graduate of the University of Strasbourg, France, Georges received his dental training there as well as earning his Doctor of Science degree. After 6 years in private practice, he traveled to the US to complete his Residency in Periodontology at SUNY at Buffalo with Bob Genco and also earned his DDS there. Georges returned to France, where he became Chair of the Department of Periodontology in the School of Dentistry at the University of Reims-Champagne-Ardenne for many years. He completed his service to the university as Head of Dental Implant Surgery before moving on to full-time private practice until he retired. Georges' career spanned over 50 years, during which time he achieved many distinctions, including serving as President of the International Academy of Periodontology being recognized with fellowships in the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Georges' contribution to the Academy is difficult to quantify. Being a founder turned out to be the easy part. Georges took over the Academy at a time of financial distress and, through his tireless efforts, built the Academy we know today. The biennial meetings, the Journal, and the outreach educational programs were all started during his tenure. I think it is safe to say that without Georges, there would be no Academy today.

Georges' impact on education was enormous, having been one of the first academicians and private practitioners to become involved in the new technology of implant dentistry that appeared in the 1980s. He received both the surgical implant training at the Branemark Institute and the Nobel BioCare Prosthetics certificate. He then took this training back to Reims to lead a new generation of students, preparing them for the Implant Surgery Program at Reims.

In addition to his years with the IAP and serving as President, Georges was active in organized dentistry at many levels. He was a Life Member of the International Association for Dental Research and a member of the American Academy of Periodontology; he was the Corresponding Member for France of the Academy of Osseointegration and an active member of the American Dental Club of Paris and the Société Parisienne de Paradontologie et d'Implantologie.

In addition to all of his professional activities, Georges was a devoted husband and father. His wife Francine and his children Cecile and Francois were the center of his life.

The impact of Prof. Georges Krygier on international periodontology is immeasurable, and his absence will leave a significant void.

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