
IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Ivo Miše 1981 - 2001

The 17th March 2001 marked twenty years since the death of Prof. Ivo Miše, Head of the Department of Oral Surgery and one of the Deans of the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb. Today's generations of students at the School of Dental Medicine have heard of him through the book on Oral Surgery which his coworkers published after his death, and which has been printed in three editions. Many of today's younger staff members at the School did not have the opportunity of meeting him.

The name Miše is mentioned today during examinations in oral surgery, and students, residents and postgraduates refer to his name in connection with pre-prosthetic surgery, dental implants and surgical prosthetics. However, as they know nothing of his character they connect professional concepts with, in their case, an abstract concept of Miše.

For those of us who lived with him and learned about oral surgery from him, it is hard to realise that twenty years have passed since his death. One reason for this is probably that the speed of life for modern man distances him from reality, and consequently the ability and wish to objectively follow the course of time. Only when we take time to recollect do we realise how much has become the past and lives only in our memories.

Prof. Ivo Miše was born in Split on 14 March 1919, where he finished his education. He commenced the study of Philosophy at the Faculty in Ljubljana, but broke off his studies during the Second World War. In 1945, after the war, he enrolled at the Higher Dental School in Split, where he graduated in 1947. For some time he was Director of the School. In 1950 he was employed as a dentist in the Dental Clinic at the School of Medicine in Zagreb. At the same time he enrolled at the Department of Dental Medicine, School of Medicine in Zagreb, and on completion of study he continued to work at the same Clinic, which later became the Clinic of Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery.

He spent time in Lion with Prof. Duclos, in Rome with Prof. Benagian, in Milan with Prof. Hoffer and in Bologna with Prof. Calabro and Prof. Cavine. In 1963 he was elected Assistant Professor and took over the teaching of Oral Surgery, previously headed by Prof. Svoboda. Up until 1970 he had been elected Associate Professor and later Full Professor, and in the meantime he carried out the duties of Vice-Dean and subsequently Dean of the School. He was elected Dean of the School in 1968, and carried out this duty until 1973. In 1978 he was again elected Dean, and carried out this duty until his death in 1981.

It was a time when the name Miše significantly influenced the dental profession, particularly oral surgery in Croatia, and in the whole of former Yugoslavia.

He performed numerous socially important duties. Thus, it should be mentioned that he was a member of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Croatia, President of the University Assembly, Vice-President of the Zagreb Town Council, Acting Director of the Clinical Hospital Centre in Zagreb, and delegate for the Maksimir District in the Croatian National Parliament.

In scientific and professional work he continually strove towards advancement of the dental profession, and from dental surgery oral surgery developed and became established as a separate specialist branch of dental medicine. He was particularly interested in the sub-specialist field of pre-prosthetic surgery, where he developed source operative methods of vestibuloplastics. He was engaged in work on dental implants, although his approach to dental implantology was at a time prior to osteointegration, and thus his concepts were different and cannot be accepted today as a doctrine. He developed surgical prosthetics, particularly in oncological patients, and at one time he was the only person to whom such patients could turn for help.

Prof. Miše published numerous scientific and professional papers, and in cooperation with Prof. Vera Arko wrote two textbooks: "Oral Surgery", printed by Školska Knjiga in 1967, and "Dental Cysts and Local Anaesthesia", printed by the School of Dental Medicine in Zagreb in 1971.

He had completed most of the chapters of the textbook on Oral Surgery when death interrupted his work. Many manuscripts, figures and drawings remained, which had to be systematically assembled, with the object of keeping within the framework of Miše's concepts on oral surgery.

We were his pupils, coworkers and friends. We understood his problems in life, just as he understood ours. We were aware that behind the oral surgeon and serious university professor was a person who understood visual arts, poetry and philosophy, always ready to share a joke, but also ready for serious discussion on current problems at that time.

He took care of the School, the profession and others, occasionally forgetting his own family. When it seemed as though he had found peace and satisfaction in family life, fate once again showed its cruel face.

Today, when the name Prof. Ivo Miše is rarely mentioned, we remember him with pride. Always ready to help his people and the profession to which he belonged he was one of the shining lights of an age that has gone for ever.

*Infinita est velocitas temporis
Quae magis apparet respitientibus
Seneca*

Goran Knežević