

Hace unos meses nos dejó el Prof. Frans van der Linden.

Frans van der Linden fue una persona muy respetada y singular en el mundo de la ortodoncia europea. Lo fue por ser uno de los pocos ortodoncistas europeos que en aquel momento decidió completar su formación en EE.UU., por su capacidad de liderazgo, por su visión de futuro de la especialidad en Europa, por su labor docente durante muchos años en la Universidad de Nijmegen (Países Bajos) y por su extraordinaria prolijidad en forma de artículos, libros y vídeos docentes. Era una persona sabia, culta, que imponía, porque emanaba autoridad. Los que pudimos conocerle de manera más personal tuvimos la suerte de apreciar todas estas cualidades y el privilegio de conocer a una gran persona y una auténtica leyenda de la ortodoncia.

Este es el recuerdo que debemos tener de él, porque nos ha aportado mucho a todos y no debemos olvidarlo.

ANDREU PUIGDOLLERS, EDITOR



Prof. Dr. Frans P.G.M. van der Linden

After a short illness, Prof. Dr. Frans P.G.M. van der Linden died on March 25, 2019, at the age of 86. He was born on the April 7, 1932, to an entrepreneurial family. After high school at the Canisius College in Nijmegen (NL), he went to study dentistry in Groningen (NL), where he graduated in 1957 and subsequently specialized in orthodontics at the orthodontic department of Prof. K.G. Bijlstra. He completed his academic education in Groningen with a promotion in 1959 on the thesis. "The facial skull in children from 7 to 11 years." After his specialization, he left for 6 months to Prof. Petrik in Vienna to familiarize himself with the treatment and use of functional appliances. With the support of a Fulbright-Hays Travel Grant and a grant from The Dutch Research Council (NWO), he then was able to go to the University of Washington (Seattle, United States) for 1 year to become proficient in the use of fixed appliances.

In 1962, Frans van der Linden, at the age of 30, was appointed Professor of Orthodontics at the newly established Faculty of Dentistry at the Catholic University of Nijmegen (now Radboud University). In those years, he had opportunity and resources to develop a good postgraduate training program; in addition to ample financial opportunities, he received all support from the university to shape the young specialism and to build up, together with a small number of other professors, a solid dental school with a solid educational curriculum. He became the teacher of postgraduate students who were almost the same age as himself.

His working style can be described as hierarchical with a somewhat authoritarian detachment. He succeeded in attracting good researchers to his department, which led to many doctoral theses at a time when this was the exception rather than the rule. The first promotion at the young school of Dentistry in Nijmegen was one of his postgraduates Dr. Herman Duterloo, who later also became a professor of orthodontics.

From 1969 to 1970, he was a visiting professor at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, United States). Here, he was primarily involved in research at the Center for Human Growth and Development. Van der Linden remained

connected to this center for 5 years as a part-time visiting scientist. His scientific interest was primarily focused on the incorporation of basic and clinical research into the theory and practice of orthodontics. In 1975, he was the first European to be certified as a Member of the American Board of Orthodontics.

Sharing knowledge and skills was very important to Frans van der Linden and he was also very good at it. He made an important contribution to the development of orthodontic education, also internationally. In 1962, he set up a specialist training course in orthodontics in Europe. He was also the initiator and leader of a project subsidized by the European Union to set up an international curriculum for the training of specialists in orthodontics. This 3-year Erasmus postgraduate program in orthodontics became the standard worldwide. He wrote 12 books, including a number of Dutch study books that were, and are, still used by many dentists.

Throughout his career, he has been awarded many times, including the Van Loon Prize from the Dutch Association for Orthodontic Study (1969), the Dr. Dentz Medal from the Dutch Association of Dentists (1979), and the Louise Ada Jarabak Memorial Teachers and Research Award from the

American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (1998), he was also an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and honorary member of the Angle Society of Europe (1998), of the Dutch Association of Orthodontists and of a number of foreign scientific associations.

After his retirement in 1995, he was knighted in the Order of the Netherlands Lion (1996). At that time, 68 dentists from The Netherlands and all over the world had completed their postgraduate orthodontic training at his department, 5 of whom later also became professors, and he supervised 27 doctoral theses.

Despite his retirement, Professor Van der Linden remained interested in the department, and he regularly invited his former faculty and support staff for dinner. When he learned in December 2018 that he was incurably ill, he used the remaining months to inform the many contacts he had, to evaluate his life, and to condition his last days of life.

We have lost a striking personality and a pioneer in the field of dentistry and orthodontics. We wish his family a lot of strength in accepting this loss. Strength in accepting this loss.

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