PASSING OF PIONEERS

JOSÉ ANTONIO JIMÉNEZ-COSSÍO (1937-2003)

I met Professor J.A. Jiménez-Cossío for the first time 20 years ago. We became immediately brotherly friends for the close analogies which linked us and above all for our deep love for Lymphology. His career was exemplary and bright: he graduated in Madrid, in 1963, and was Professor in the Faculty of Medicine of Madrid and, starting from 1978, Head of Angiology and Vascular Surgery Department in the University Hospital “La Paz”. He was the Founder and President of the Spanish Club of Lymphology since 1983, President of the Spanish Society of Angiology and Vascular Surgery in 1989. In the same year, on June 24, in Genoa, at the 11th meeting of the European Group of Lymphology, he promoted together with me and other friends and colleagues the founding of the Latin-Mediterranean Chapter of the International Society of Lymphology, of which he was the President until his death last May.

On September 30, 1996, the same date I received “Laurea Honoris Causa,” he became Professor “Honoris Causa” of the Faculty of Medicine of Valenca-Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

In 1997, he was President of the highly successful and well-attended 16th ISL International Congress of Lymphology. Member of many national and international societies of vascular pathology and surgery, author of several books and many scientific papers, he was recently also President of the World College of Vascular Diseases, becoming one of the first to bring Vascular Pathology onto the CD-Rom and promoting close cooperation of many Clinical Centers all over the world in this project. His international personality and presence outside Spain was very extensive, never competitive, but always open to loved and loving relationship among colleagues.

His premature death leaves an unbelievable gap in everybody’s soul—both of his family and his many friends, colleagues and pupils: we shall never forget him, we will always remember him with his charming, bright, and knowing smile!

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Prof. Sumiko Magari passed away on October 12, 2002. She was born in 1924 as the eldest daughter of Prof. Nishimura of the Department of Ophthalmology, Tokyo University. She graduated from Kansai Medical University and became a resident in the Department of Dermatology for a year. She specialized in anatomy under Prof. Saburo Kihara, a famous lymphologist who performed many excellent research works on the anatomy of lymphatics. She moved to Kyoto University with Prof. Kihara, who became professor of Kyoto University. Famous lymphologists such as Prof. Mori Katashi, who demonstrated the lymphatics by silver solution, belonged to this department. She became an assistant and then associate professor of Department of Anatomy of Kansai Medical University. In 1958, she became associate professor of Anatomy of Osaka Medical University and in 1973, professor and chairperson of the same department.

Her meticulous and imaginative main works include a new method of tissue preparation for scanning electron microscopy, ultrastructure analysis of the liver, and study of lymphatic tissues such as Peyer patches of the intestine using a new technique of immunoelectron microscopy. She was the president of the 88th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Anatomy and also of the 14th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Lymphology, 1990. She was also a long-time Associate Editor of Lymphology.

During meetings I enjoyed talking in depth with her because she was once also a dermatologist, and she and I shared interest in the ultrastructure of the lymphatics. In almost all meetings, we had lively discussions on the electron microscopy of the lymphatics and other lymphologic matters. In the last 10 years in almost all congresses, I cited her work. That was a reflection of her power to stimulate me to do further research. Now I have lost an important and compatible rival, with whom I shared much. I thank Professor Magari for having given an impetus to my own research and to many others. She was one of the greatest lymphologic anatomists of Japan and, indeed, in the world. (The detailed data of Professor Magari were given by Professor K. Ohtsuki, Department of Anatomy, Osaka Medical University, and I thank him deeply).

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Professor Marceau Servelle was born on April 6, 1912, at Auxonne (department of Côte d’Or in France) and started his medical studies at Dijon, then Lyon and finally Strasbourg, becoming “interne des hôpitaux” (1938). He was, at this time, a pupil of René Leriche following this famous surgeon and researcher to Paris when René Leriche was nominated at the College de France.

Following the examples given by R. Leriche, M. Servelle oriented his work to the venous system publishing in 1943 a study on the venous abnormalities in the origin of the Klippel-Trenaunay Syndrome. Subsequently, he published a plethora of works:

1941: performed direct lymphography in a dog and in 1943 direct lymphography in a patient with dilated lymphatics and the same year, investigations into chylous reflux syndromes;

1945: investigated the experimental basis of the link between venous stasis and bone growth;

1947: learned from Alfred Blalock his new surgical technique for the cardiac disease called “blue baby” and the cardiac catheterization technique exploration;

1950: with O’Neil, performed surgery on mitral valves and continued to perform this operation for French patients. Later, introduced the “Swan technique” using hypothermia for cardiac surgery;

January 1951: performed the first renal transplantation in the world with Charles Dubost and Rene Kuss;


He worked at Leopold Bellan Hospital and St. Michel Hospital as head of the cardiosurgical unit from 1952 to 1977. He was a member of a variety of scientific societies and a member of the “Académie Vétérinaire de France.”

I first met Professor M. Servelle when I became an Assistant in the Department of Pathology at St. Michel Hospital. During this period of time, he treated numerous patients suffering from limb lymphedema by performing total superficial lymphangietomy.

Without doubt, Professor Servelle has been a pioneering and very active surgeon and a scientific man. We will keep in mind his memory, the “souvenir” of a dynamic and charming individual, who passed from the surgical and lymphologic scene at the end of 2002.

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On February 17, 1997, the International Society of Lymphology lost one of its outstanding members and former Editor of Lymphology. Peter E. Peters MD, Professor of Radiology and chairman of the Dept. of Radiology at the University of Muenster, Germany died too early at 59 years of age.

Dr. Peters received his first medical training at the Universities of Zurich, Switzerland and Freiburg, Germany. He then served as a research assistant at Washington University in St. Louis, USA, working in the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (Chairman: Prof. Dr. J. Taveras), the Dept. of Abdominal Imaging (Head: Prof. Dr. P.R Koehler) and Radiation Research (Head: Prof. Dr. M. Ter-Pogossian). Later, he worked as an assistant in Radiology at the German Diagnostic Clinic in Wiesbaden and served from 1973-1979 on the faculty of the Westfaelische Wilhelms-University, Muenster, Germany. After a 3-year term as associate professor at the University of Koeln, Germany, he returned to Muenster as Director of the Dept. of Radiology in 1983.

In 1971, Peter Peters became a member of the International Society of Lymphology. A few years later he was appointed to the editorial board of Lymphology and served from 1976-1983 as editor together with A.E. Dumont. His scientific work in lymphology was focused on diagnostic lymphography and endolymphatic radiotherapy.

His international activities were characterized by extensive work in different UNESCO and WHO scientific groups and at the European College of Radiological Education and European Association of Radiology. He was also involved in numerous medical organizations. Despite his preference for background work, his dedication to the promotion of research and quality management of the health care system and medical politics was very effective and successful.

He authored 7 books, contributed over 300 chapters or articles to scientific journals and publications, and presented abstract exhibits and scientific assemblies around the world.

To me, Peter E. Peters was a dedicated and highly esteemed colleague as well as a reliable co-worker with many excellent ideas. For the younger colleagues, he served as a role model with competence, authority and flexibility as well as one worthy of admiration and with a beloved personality. His death is to be regretted as a large loss for Lymphology and Radiology.

H. Weissleder, Freiburg, Germany
ISL Secretary General 1970-1984