

In memory

Professor Lucien Dominique Castellani

1937-2024

Flamboyant, generous, attentive, innovative, Dear Lucien, you have gone through your medical career with success, brilliance and determination. When you left North Africa, you were born in Relizane in Algeria where you began your studies, towards the cold lands of Strasbourg with your friend Jacques Pietri, you brilliantly obtained your aggregation then your professorship in vascular surgery at the university of Tours where you trained many of our colleagues, including Professor Albert-Claude Benhamou. Your obligations have notably taken you to Romania, Doctor Honoris Causa and to Italy, editor-in-chief of a famous journal from Editions Minerva in Turin or Visiting Professor at the Sapienza University of Rome, welcomed as a friend because you speak the transalpine language perfectly. But you have also been part of the boards of major French and international angiology societies where you played a decisive role. Finally, all your merits have allowed you to be made a Knight of the Legion of Honor of France.

In 1990, your desire for innovation led you to the United States into the crucible of endovascular surgery initiated by Doctor Edward B. Diethrich, creator of a famous congress every February in Phoenix, Arizona. You immediately caught the flow of this medical revolution thanks to the teachings and friendship of this extraordinary pioneer. Thanks to him, thanks to your determination and your sense of opportunity, you found the resources to organize in 1994, the memorable International Endovascular Workshop in Ajaccio, Corsica, on your homelands, not far from Evisa, the cradle of your family. So for more than 15 years, every year in June, you received, in a friendly atmosphere conducive to debate, the most eminent surgeons in the world: your French friends of Corsican origin like Jean Natali, Jacques Pietri, Jean Noël Fabiani or Marc Coggia but also Jean Pierre Ribal, Philippe Patra, Edouard Kieffer, Gérard Fiévé, Jean Pierre Becquemin, your English friends including Roger Greenhalgh, Matthew Thompson, Geoffrey Gilling Smith, Europeans including Jan Brunkwall, Dieter Reitel, Carlo Cetacci, Georgio Biasi, Jacques Blein, but also your American friends including the legends Frank Veith, Michel Makaroun, Juan Parodi and Julio Palmaz, to name a few. The sound of the cannons of the Napoleonic guard, followed by traditional Corsican polyphonic songs, inevitably served as an opening to the famous gala

evenings at the water's edge, during which you did not hesitate to sing a song on the guitar.

Following the creation in 1992 of the International Society for Endovascular Specialists (ISEVS), of which you were one of the first registered members, you had the advantage of bringing together each year in Ajaccio, the eminent members of its Steering Committee, Dr Edward Diethrich, Professor Rodney White, Dr Frank Criado, Professor Clifford Buckley and Professor Jim May. We remember the famous Brussels - Ajaccio charter flight that you organized on the occasion of the first ISEVS European Summer Meeting in Brussels, the following ones having taken place in Siena then in Bordeaux. In June, we had to carry out the scientific triangle which began with the Cardiostim congress in Nice, organized every two years by Dr Mujica, then the MEET congress in Cannes by Drs Amor and Bergeron, then at the end, the Ajaccio Workshop.

Let us add our voluntary surgical trips to Vietnam carried out between 1998 and 2000, thanks to our friend Dr Pierre Desoutter, which constitute an unforgettable memory, at your side, both operational, during our long working days, and tourist, especially when in Saigon, you offered me to accompany you to visit the establishments run by the descendants of the Corsican legionnaires.

You therefore leave us with an unforgettable memory, we who were able to experience these intense moments of the emergence of endovascular surgery where your prestigious guests, these precursors, opened the great debates which allowed the ennoblement of these interventional techniques which will attack all the bastions of classic vascular surgery, without eliminating them, such as the thoracic aorta, supra-aortic trunks, bypasses or dialysis fistulas.

Farewell Dear Lucien, the national and international vascular community knows what it owes you; she will never forget you, will never forget your enterprising spirit, your kindness and your good humor.

Doctor Jacques Busquet

Co-Founder, former President and International Ambassador of the International Society for Endovascular Specialists (ISEVS/JEVT)