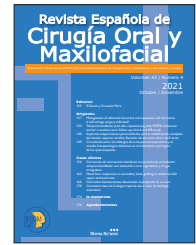




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In memoriam

Daniel M. Laskin

(September 3, 1924 – December 8, 2021)

To speak of Daniel Laskin is to speak of an indisputable reference in the history of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry and supposes, on the one hand, a simple task having been an example for all, but at the same time complex to summarize his life and curriculum in a few brief paragraphs.

His long life ended at the age of 97 and I still remember the last time I saw him during the 24th ICOMS World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, just before the pandemic, sharing a Symposium on minimally invasive treatment of TMJ dysfunction; with 95 years! I was so impressed that I took a picture of him during discussion. The amazing thing is not that he spoke, the incredible thing was the sensible and logical things he said! A privileged head and mind. His iron will to learn and teach until the last days of his life were an example and a pride, something so necessary in a specialty like ours so needy of future generations that maintain the standards of quality care and research. He also liked to appear unexpectedly at untimely hours during the congresses in the TMJ oral communications rooms, even to listen to the residents, as during the European Congress in Prague in 2014, giving his presence relevance to these not very crowded sessions. These anecdotes perfectly exemplify his way of being, his vocation and his love for our specialty. Another anecdote referred to by his friend Dr. Monje occurred in 2006 during the 18th European Congress of the EACMFS held in Barcelona under the Presidency of Dr. Raspall; when he left early to play sports from the hotel where they were both staying, he found Dr. Laskin ready to jogging with a white ribbon on his head and after sharing a hard session of running and gymnastics he confessed that his secret was discipline, discipline and discipline. He was 82 years old at the time! That combative and optimistic spirit accompanied him until the last days of his life.

His resume is overwhelming. Just refer that when you enter his name in PubMed, 556 references appear! The first of these is a work published in 1952 on anaerobic glycolysis in transplanted cartilage, a topic of tissue biology that occupied many hours of research in his life, as well as that of craniofacial growth. Perhaps that is why he was passionate about the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) orienting its management and treatment towards the functional area rather than the surgi-



Dr. Laskin, microphone in hand, participating as an assistant in a TMJ symposium at the ICOMS World Congress in Rio de Janeiro just before the pandemic at age 95. Next to him TMJ arthroscopist Dr. Chi Yang from China listens carefully (author's photograph).

cal one (he said that this phase "had caught him late"). From this controversy arose in different Congresses and Courses an intense friendship with some Spanish surgeons, especially those who treat the TMJ by arthroscopy. He was not a big fan of this technique, although he did not despise it and even admired it, and when in the 90s appeared the technique of arthrocentesis and joint washing he became a firm defender of it. Lately he continued to publish interesting opinion articles and editorials in different publications of impact, especially in the North American *J Oral Maxillofac Surg*, magazine of which he was editor-in-chief for many years. He also published more than 15 books mainly focused on Oral Surgery and TMJ. He was president of the American (AAOMS) and World (IAOMS) Associations, apart from numerous honorary positions in different Universities around the world.

This New Yorker, wiry, small, thin and active, with that aspect for which time never passed (when I met him in 1992, almost 30 years ago, he already had the same appearance as

recently), graduated in Indiana and finished his residency in the neighboring state of Illinois where he worked at the College of Dentistry (remember that Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the USA is a Dental specialty) for 30 years, moving in the year 84 to Virginia. Rest in peace, friend.

Rafael Martín-Granizo López
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