

Memorial pages

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Prof Michael Földi (10/01/1920 – 20/10/2018)

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Figure 1 - Prof. Michael Földi.

Michael Földi has left us.

He did with great dignity, as he had done for a long life dedicated to the relief of the suffering of patients, and to the education of a huge number of health workers who today, in the world, spread his experience and are sad for his death.

I prefer to remember him, on behalf of the many lymphologists who adhere to the International Society of Lymphology (ISL), for his extraordinary interest in research and continuous updating.

Together with his wife Ethel he spent his life dedicating it to the study and treatment of patients with lymphedema, creating in Germany, at Interzarten near Freiburg in the wonderful Black Forest, one of the most famous lymphological Centers in the world, where together with his specialized staff he welcomed patients coming from every continent for their necessary treatments.

Among the founding members of the ISL, in Zurich in July 1966 (also in this forerunner and far-sighted) he joined the new European Lymphology Group just as early in March 1982 (which later became the European Society

of Lymphology). In both contexts he constantly brought his contribution of scientific and human wealth with the active and participatory presence in congress discussions, always conducted with refinement, pragmatism and high scientific level.

It is not possible to foresee how many doctors and physiotherapists were trained over time at his School of Formation founded in Interzarten, coming from all over Europe and even from overseas. He chaired also several practical and theoretical courses abroad. I had also the honour to participate to one of them, organized by Prof. Corradino Campisi in Genoa, having the good fortune to listen to him as a teacher, appearance under which he excelled.

His studies were published in all the major international journals of the sector and many of them were particularly innovative and enlightening. Among them I would like to mention his experience on guinea-pigs, that demonstrated the lymphokinetic effect of alpha-benzopyrones highlighting the marked increase in the frequency and contractile intensity of the thoracic duct following administration of a synthetic coumarin derivative.

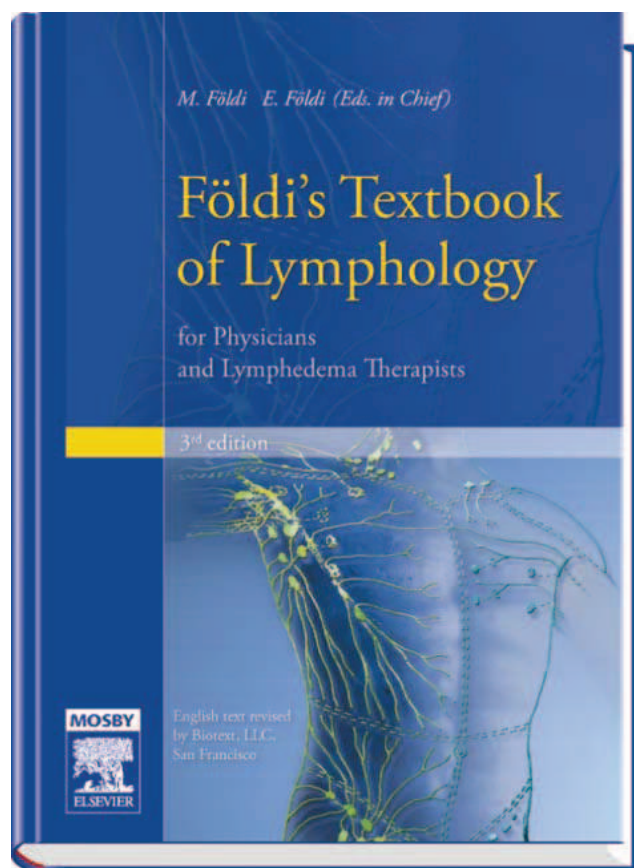


Figure 2 - Földi's Textbook of Lymphology.

Michael Földi produced a long series of scientific papers, covering a wide range of topics related to Lymphology. His very rich scientific production culminated in the 2007 edition of the Földi's Textbook of Lymphology, a real treatise on lymphology, with particular attention to all the chapters with the ability to update all the main topics treated, insomuch as it shortly became the main reference text (and still is today) for many doctors, physiotherapists, nurses and experts of the subject.

The book is written in English, with the strong contribution of Ethel, the woman of his life, and together they wanted to transmit all their experience to future generations with a strong scientific imprint message. The whole world International lymphology Community should consider their diagnostic and therapeutic indications as a treasure for the health of patients.

In the text it is contained the essence of the inspiring principles of the activity of the Földi Clinic in the Black

Forest, where thousands of patients from all over the world found a sure point of reference to alleviate their suffering.

I remember him, in particular, in Rome, in the San Giovanni Battista Hospital where I work, on the podium of the Great Hall (during the Congress of the European Society of Lymphology in 2005), in one of the last conferences in which I had the pleasure to meet him (the last one was perhaps the following year at his home, in Hinterzarten), when I had the honor of moderating together with him a scientific session on the medical therapy of lymphoedema. He recalled me his first experiences with benzopyrones and their effect on the contractility of the thoracic duct. He agreed with the arguments I had just presented on the combined use of several benzopyrones, which if associated have a much greater clinical effect than if taken alone. At the end of the session, giving me some written sheets, he told me 'keep Sandro, this is a job for your Journal!' (the European Journal of Lymphology).

He was an "essential" man and, at the same time, highly authoritative.

I do not want to remind you his prestigious positions in all the main national and international scientific societies of the discipline, nor the important scientific and didactic production that he continuously provided for decades. I'd like instead to remind him to you as one of the Fathers of world Lymphology, a great Clinician, a great Man!

In the last years of his life, Ethel told me what wonderful life-partner he had been. He no longer had the strength to participate in the Congresses, due to the physical limitations that his old age imposed on him. Nevertheless, he continued transmitting to those who were close to him all his experience, polished as always, until the end of his days.

We will not miss him as a simple colleague, a simple scholar, a clinician or a teacher. He has left us as the Master of Lymphology.

Thank you Michael: our knowledge today owes so much to You!

Sandro Micheli

President of the International Society of Lymphology

References

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Dr Evi Kalodiki (10/01/1956 - 31/12/2018)

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Dr Evi Kalodiki, *Venous ThromboEmbolism (VTE)*, May 2013, Napoli (Italy).

Evi shared the birthplace of Aphrodite in Larnaca, Cyprus. However, she differed in that she worked with foam rather than being born out of the foam. From a mother and father of eminent personages in law she studied medicine in Athens and made a name in venous disease through her position at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London. She holds the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (2009) as well as an MA in English literature (1984) and a PhD in venous disease (1996) from Imperial College, London. Her academic achievements are well known and can be obtained through a simple search on the Internet. This includes over 100 publications in Pubmed, membership of 21 societies, co-editor of 5 books, scientific secretary of 14 consensus statements, reviewer of 5 academic journals with membership of the editorial committee in 4 others. She achieved recognition through her international presentations and gained 12 prizes. The highlight was the Mauro Bartolo lifetime achievement award in 2016 in recognition of her outstanding scientific contribution in vascular disease and her visiting professor status at Loyola University Chicago.

In research she was the queen of air-plethysmography as the ultimate investigation of venous disease in quantifying reflux, obstruction and venous tone. Her legacy will decide on this simple, non-invasive, practical test for everyone with a venous disorder in an outpatient setting. In culture she supported Giorgos Sarandaris, an eminent scholar, for his life and works in the field of poetry.

Evi had impact. In her younger years she was a match for the most beautiful people in the world. She shook hands with the king of Sweden, the Archbishop of Melbourne, the sultan of Malaysia, Kojak and many others. She gave generously to charities and was an executive board member of the Hellenic Society in London for decades. She was responsible, in part, for Greek culture in the UK. Her only true mentors in life with directional influence were Dr Fareed from Loyola University Chicago and PL Antignani. Others had fleeting interests, nothing more.

Evi will be remembered for her unique individual personality, trying on occasions, and her generosity in time and money for friends and complete strangers. She always valued people above possessions and added to life in hope and purpose, with her smiles and pedantic dedication to research. She held an open house in Paddington with endless parties, meetings, reunions and celebrations all year round.

Her body rests in the family tomb (second shelf on the right) in the First cemetery of Athens next to her mother. She leaves behind her husband Christopher Lattimer, sister Maria Karamanoli, cousin Pavlos, special nephew Phaeton and her nieces Veroniki and Eva.

Christopher R Lattimer