

# Memorial pages

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## Hommage to Prof François-André Allaert

### M Cazaubon<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vascular Medicine, American Hospital Neuilly  
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Michèle Cazaubon, micazang@noos.fr

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*François-André Allaert and M.me Michele Cazaubon*

### FRANCAIS

Paris le 6 Juin 2019

Perdre un ami, c'est toujours aussi douloureux, les années passent mais c'est toujours aussi difficile à accepter, surtout si le décès survient brutalement. François André Allaert a donc cessé de vivre Mardi soir, il avait 59 ans.

De vivre et de travailler, en pouvant se targuer d'un parcours hors du commun. Médecin de formation, passionné par les mathématiques et les biostatistiques il a

complété sa formation par un doctorat de pharmacie, une thèse de droit, un DEA d'économie et une Habilitation à diriger des recherches (Enseignant chercheur à l'Université de Dijon). Il a publié plus de 2000 articles<sup>1</sup>... qui dit mieux ?

Pour moi il a été un soutien majeur en acceptant la Présidence de la Société Française d'Angéiologie. car toujours disposé à partager ses compétences extra médicales et rendre accessible l'épidémiologie avec ses statistiques rébarbatives pour le médecin de terrain.

Il a assumé des Présidences de Congrès en France et partout dans le monde, en particulier dans les pays francophones, sachant s'habituer bien vite aux coutumes d'un pays... et faire connaître et apprécier les nôtres.

La politique n'avait pas non plus de secret pour lui, très attaché à sa ville de Dijon et je me suis toujours demandé comment il avait le temps de faire tout cela en répondant toujours présent aux demandes de ses amis.

Il serait –presque- outrageux de ne pas parler de sa culture oenologique et ceux qui ont pu partager sa table se souviendront longtemps des trésors que cachait sa cave .. à faire pâlir les plus grands sommeliers !

Tu vas nous manquer François André !

Pour tous ses moments partagés, repose en paix. Tu resteras un exemple pour tous ceux qui ne veulent pas se contenter d'une vision « obtuse » de la médecine.

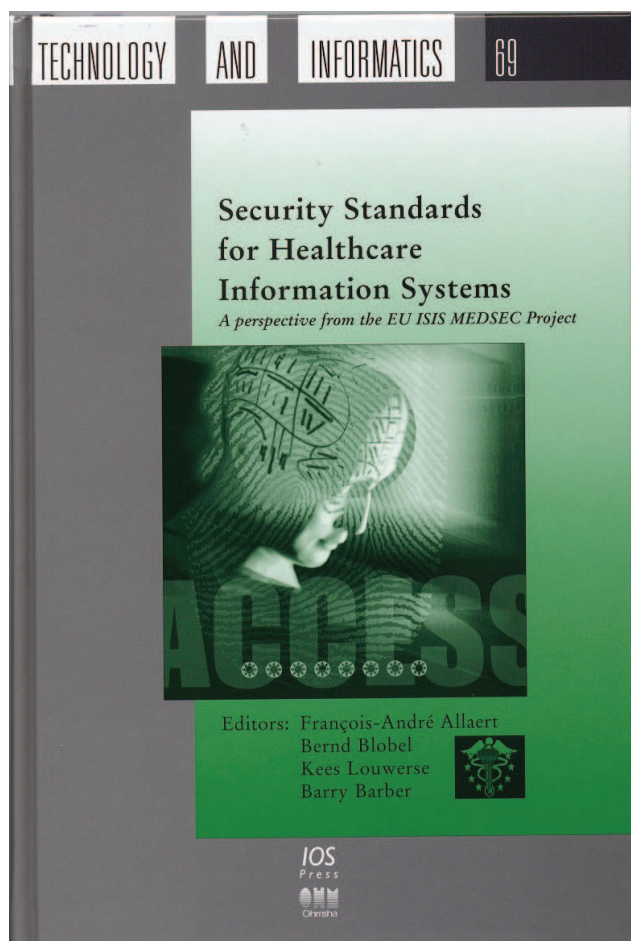
Bon courage à Yann, son fidèle compagnon, et à toute l'équipe du CEN de Dijon

### ENGLISH

Paris, 6th June 2019

Losing a friend is always painful. Years are passing but it's still very difficult to accept, especially if the death occurs brutally. François-André has ceased living on Tuesday night, he was 59 years old.

Both his professional and personal path was extraordinary. Qualified physician, passionate about mathematics and biostatistics, he has completed his training with a doctorate of pharmacy, a thesis of law, a DEA of economics with a habilitation to direct research (Teacher Researcher for the Dijon University). He published more than 2000 articles<sup>1</sup>... Who can say better?



*Security Standards for Healthcare Information Systems by François-André Allaert*

To me, he was a major support by accepting the Presidency of the French Society of Angiology. He was

## Reminiscence of my mentor, Prof. Leonel Villavicencio

**BB Lee<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Professor of Surgery and Director, Center for the Lymphedema and Vascular Malformations, George Washington University, Washington DC, USA. Adjunct Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, USA. Visiting Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA. Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA.



always willing to share his extra medical skills to make accessible epidemiology statistics, which are not easy to understand for a field physician.

He has held congressional presidencies in France and around the world, in particular in French-speaking countries. He knew how to quickly get used to the customs of a country.

He was known around the world and, somehow, made France famous as well.

Politics had no secret for him. He was fully attached to his city of Dijon. I always wondered how he had time to do it all, being always available for his friends multiple requests.

It would be -almost- outrageous not to talk about he's oenological culture. Those who had shared his table will remember the treasures hidden in his cellar... That would pale the greatest wine waiters!

We'll miss you François-André!

For all these shared moments, rest in peace. You'll remain an example for all those who didn't want to settle for an "hidebound" vision of medicine.

Best luck to Yann, his faithful companion, and to the CEN team of Dijon.

**Dr Michèle Cazaubon**

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My mentor, Prof. Leonel Villavicencio was born and raised in Mexico City, Mexico but he established himself as a career vascular surgeon here in the U.S. and rather well known as a world authority in the venous-lymphatic disease based on Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, Md since early '80 era.



*Dr. Villavicencio with BB Lee in 1995*

Indeed, Leonel started to collect his invaluable pearls through such extensive studies he has done at many world leading institutes here in the U.S. during his Cardiovascular Surgery fellowships at University of Illinois under legendary Geza De Takats, and then Peter Bent Brigham Hospital of Harvard Medical School under Richard Warren and finally at Children's Hospital Medical Center under Robert Gross before he went back to Mexico to pay back what he owed to his native country.

But luckily for me, Prof. Villavicencio just moved out from Mexico City to have settled in town at Bethesda/USUHS right on time when I really need his helps. Indeed, when I encountered such crisis with vascular malformation in early '80 for the first time in my career, soon after I founded peripheral vascular surgery division together with transplant surgery at Georgetown University here in Washington DC, Leonel from Bethesda reached out to rescue me giving such critical helps no one was able to do then.

Indeed, no one among my senior vascular surgeons throughout the country knew how to help me to cope with this odd vascular problem, then known as angiodysplasia before we named them as (congenital) vascular malformation. But Leonel did to me! Since then, he remained the beacon to guide me safely through for over three decades until he peacefully passed away last January.

Leonel, ever proud Peter Bent Brigham-trained cardiovascular surgeon, dedicated his entire career to venous as well as lymphatic surgery; he was the one who always reminded me not to forget that we need more inputs/studies, if not same amount at least, to venous and also lymphatic disease as to arterial disease. He was the one who taught me how to do the lymphatic reconstruction/

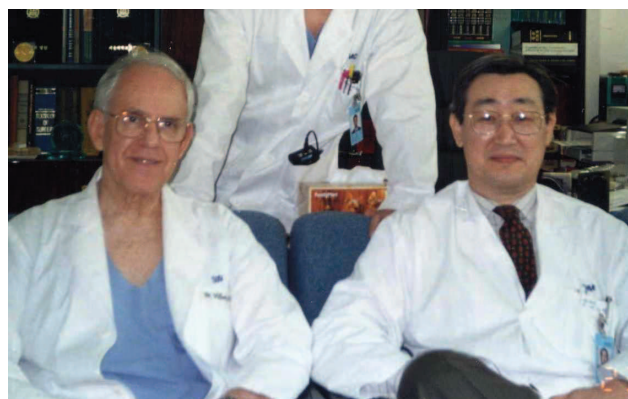
anastomosis under the microscopy first, often comparing the lymphedema as a poor cousin of Cinderella.

Further, when I decided to go back to Seoul in 1994 temporarily to organize Hopkin's style surgery program for SamSung Medical Center/SungKyunKwan Univ during my double tenure at the Hopkins, Leonel volunteered to negotiate with SamSung group in behalf of me to provide me sufficient funds to carry on 5 vascular specialty clinics including the vascular malformation clinic and also lymphedema clinic, and remained as a staunch supporter on the programs together with John Bergan and Mel Williams till I get back home to the U.S., 2004.

Lastly, Leonel persuaded me to organize one last mission based on the controversial issues we couldn't handle successfully through the years while we were organizing 7 consecutive consensus as well as two handbooks for the vascular malformation and lymphedema. Indeed, when we began to organize the consensus on venous malformation, along with primary lymphedema/lymphatic malformation, commissioned by the IUP in 2007, we were quite surprised and embarrassed to find out there were many issues mired in controversy, with no clear answers to be incorporated into the consensus.

We initially took them lightly, and unintentionally neglected them, until we encountered more hotly debated issues through a subsequently organized consensus for AV malformation that was commissioned by the IUA. I reluctantly took Leonel's repeated advices to start addressing these issues by collecting and saving them for future review.

Through subsequent updates on these consensus for venous malformation and lymphatic malformation/primary lymphedema, as well as new additional consensus for vascular anomaly and chronic lymphedema that we organized for the IUA and IUP, we recognized the serious nature of these controversial ideas for the first time. They were the 'tip of the iceberg', which we could not simply ignore as Leonel warned to us!



*Dr. Villavicencio with BB Lee in 1996*



Leonel gave such decisive help through his perspective in sorting out these many contentious topics. We discussed them through numerous communications while organizing the consensus, and they became a turning point for us to tackle this ever-challenging task with determination. And we finally launched "Advances and Controversies in Contemporary Management: VASCULAR MALFORMATIONS" with Peter Gloviczki & Francine Blei -see the cited TOC<sup>1</sup>- last Fall.

Sadly, Leonel couldn't fulfill his last commitment to write the Foreword although his closest friend and colleague, Hugo Partsch of Austria, kindly stepped in to write it in behalf of Leonel. But, Leonel remained in my

heart as my mentor FOREVER. Without Leonel's constant encouragement, I would have remained a career transplant surgeon without ever having ventured out into the ever-challenging but fertile world of vascular malformation.

BB Lee

A proud pupil of Leonel Villavicencio

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## Remembering Roberto

Prof. Roberto Bisacci, †Nov 22, 2019

**G Genovese<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Founder President of the Italian Phlebological Society (SIF)

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Roberto Bisacci has left us with a slow and discreet step, just like he lived.

Yesterday, in the early afternoon: I ... landed ... and He ... took off ... just like we always did.

I returned from Brussels, where I had gone to reap the rewards of that Erasmus + project that together we had begun in July 2014: the recognition of a new professional figure, that of the Phlebologist.

I would have liked to comment with him on the photos of my presentation of the project to the European Parliament: it was Our Last Dream.

The First had been to make the Italian Phlebology Society a great reality: it was the night of 27 September 1987, in Rosa Marina in Ostuni, the second night of my second National Congress as founder president of the S.I.F.



*Prof. Roberto Bisacci*

It was, as I was saying, almost the dawn of the third day, and I was still talking to Prof. Bisacci about the university's cognitive deficiencies in the phlebological field, mixing and exchanging that fervor and passion that only curiosity can turn on in intelligent men.

Because this was Roberto, an intelligent man from the Marches, curious, shy, discreet, humble and silent, but when passion ignited him, he was talkative, because he was "ideorroico (prolific mind of ideas)".

Thus, in 1989, I invited him to join the 2nd Board of Directors of the S.I.F. that he never abandoned, until yesterday.

It was Friendship, without adjectives!

Adjectives are used to "add" and we had nothing to add. Friendship that has also seen arguments and quarrels, sometimes furious, without ever having to apologize, there has never been a need.

I've always been bulky and noisy and he great big, but shy, humble, silently frantic, like a bee that works even while flying and I flew with him, sometimes slightly disturbed by flies, which certainly don't fly on flowers ...

Roberto was a man from the Marches, in the most beautiful sense, one who has to think a lot, always, first, about anything, above all about friendship, not with presumption, with humility: when in 2004 I founded the Italian Register of Phlebologists, He didn't agree, he didn't want to; He told me: "who are we, to create a grid for access to colleagues?"

He had even ignored that with our post-graduate master's degrees in phlebology activated at our University of Perugia, in 15 years we had trained over seven hundred phlebologists and, among these, also many, many future masters, such as the late Marco Apperti.

We had created the first Italian University School of Phlebology, we had created, by joining six prestigious Italian Universities, the Inter-University Center for Research and Training in Phlebology that had graduated 22 three-year research doctorates, but his modesty prevented him from immediately understanding the importance; until 2014 when he finally let himself be persuaded and we went to a notary, who was also strictly from the Marches, and we founded what is now a "recognized" reality in Europe: the European Register of Phlebologists.

He knew that I would go to Brussels also in his name, aware of the success of the project and I wanted him to be personally gratified, so, having heard the opinion of all our European colleagues, I decided to name it to Him,

He who took off in the rain yesterday afternoon, while I simply landed in the rain ...

Giuseppe