

# Memorial pages

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## Hugo's memorial

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*Prof. Hugo Partsch (1938-2023)*

When I heard of Hugo's departure for his new life, I could barely believe it was true, as the immortality of such a giant of phlebology and lymphology should not allow him to leave us all poorer..here.

Hugo's outstanding career and cultural contribution to world phlebology and lymphology does not need to be re-confirmed in any memorial. More probably, he represented a sort of lighthouse which illuminated our travel

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across the stormy waters of the ever-changing seas of phlebology science.

I had personally occasion to meet Hugo some 25 years ago in Sydney (UIP world congress), when he showed a great attention towards some "innovative" anatomical and hemodynamic aspects of chronic venous diseases which were presented by some of us. After becoming UIP president, his curiosity and open-minded attitude towards the proposals aimed at advancing the science of phlebology, led him to organise a number of consensus conferences on several topics.

For some unknown reason Hugo asked me to help him with an educational project ("living veins and lymphatics", an interactive CD with videos, power point presentations and some internet references, ... quite innovative for that time).

In fact, he was a fervent supporter of the need to consider veins and lymphatics as two traveling companions functionally and mutually united, in good and bad times, for the centripetal drainage of fluids and macromolecules<sup>1</sup>.

One year later he wanted to involve me in the duplex investigation world consensus conferences of UIP, together with giants such as K. Myers, A. Nicolaides, P. Coleridge-Smith, N. Labropoulos, S. Ricci and A. Caggiati<sup>2, 3</sup>. His continuous stimulus to advance the duplex ultrasound consensus projects was a real challenge and an extremely rewarding input for all of us.

Many more common initiatives followed and I kept learning a lot every single day from this master of the masters, both under the scientific point of view and under the ethics, the sobriety and the foresight point of view.

Hugo lifelong published an extremely high-level literature concerning a vast series of phlebology and

lymphology topics. His major focus on the active mechanisms and the outcomes of compression therapy, allowed generations of health professionals to understand and apply the principles of this cornerstone treatment in acute and chronic venous and lymphatic diseases.

What we can do is to remember his vivid eyes fully open towards an honest scientific research and a fruitful and appropriate clinical practice. His combination of humanity and strictness was a formidable gift, in a world of “cold” protocols, but also full of easy enthusiasms and of industry-based inputs. Embracing the world vascular specialists in his arms, he was able to harmonise a

vast number of controversies in congresses, papers and consensus documents.

His legacy is especially linked to his ability to affirm and demonstrate strong truths to advance the real and useful medical progress; but also, Hugo will be remembered for his determination to balance these evidences and the guidelines with the patient-centred approach and with the need for a continuous update of biomedical science, which is, in fact, a continuously changing base of knowledge<sup>4</sup>.

### Attilio Cavezzi

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## Dr Michel Perrin's obituary

### R Milleret<sup>1</sup>

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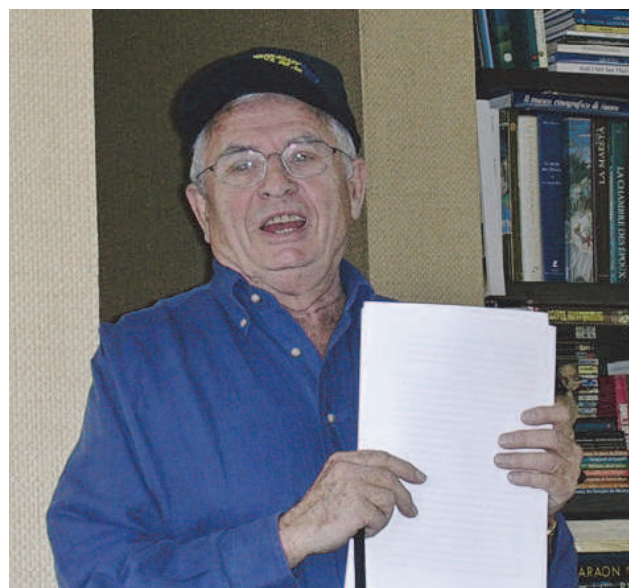
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Michel was a legend since his days as a medical student in Lyon, in the Fifties.

In this time, surgical trainees lived in the hospital and worked days and nights without “compensatory rest time” as is it compulsory nowadays. He was always on the bridge, eager to learn and improve his surgical skills, which were appreciated by all his mentors.



*Dr. Michel Perrin*

Despite being a brilliant resident and a born teacher, he was denied a career in University and public hospital because no tenure was available. Thus he funded a private hospital in Lyon with two colleagues: his Clinique du Grand Large became a world renowned centre for venous surgery, visited by dozens of surgeons from all around the world. Michel Perrin kept an open mind and had a talent to detect and adopt promising new techniques in vascular surgery.