

In Memoriam



Professor Arje Scheinin

Professor Emeritus (Cariology) Arje Scheinin, the former Editor of *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica*, died on the 25th of October 2003 in Turku, at the age of 80.

Arje Scheinin graduated from high school during the war in 1941, and served in the army until the end of the war. He began to study dentistry at the University of Helsinki in 1945, became Licentiate of Odontology in 1950 and Doctor of Odontology (PhD) in 1958, also in Helsinki.

Soon after that the dental school in Turku was founded, Scheinin was appointed its first Professor and Chairman of Cariology in 1961. Because there were only temporary facilities available for the staff and students, Scheinin was nominated Chairman of the Planning Committee for a new institute building. Along with the late Professor Kalevi Koski, he had a key role in designing the modern, round-shaped institute, which was officially inaugurated in 1966. Professor Scheinin was the Dean of the school for 14 years, respected as an authoritative, demanding but fair leader. In 1981 he was elected Rector of Turku University for six years. He continued to be active also professionally, e.g. in WHO and FDI. He served in FDI as Councillor, Speaker, Vice-President and as President of the Annual World Congress in 1984.

Scheinin was the Editor of *Proceedings of the Finnish Dental Society* for four years and of *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* in 1966–76. Later he also served as an Associate Editor of *Scandinavian Journal of Dental Research*. He earned international recognition with his studies on microcirculation of

vital pulp. The famous ‘Turku Sugar Studies’ on the caries-preventive effect of xylitol were carried out in 1972–74. This enormous clinical investigation, performed in cooperation with Professor Kauko Mäkinen, led to a number of other clinical xylitol studies by Scheinin, for example in Hungary and Tahiti. During the 1980s, he became interested in the prediction of root surface caries, writing a few excellent articles on this topic. In total, Arje Scheinin published over 200 original articles in international journals.

Numerous prestigious awards and honours were bestowed on Arje Scheinin. In 1987, he received the Miller Award. He was invited to become an Honorary Member in 18 scientific societies in 9 countries. He received the degree of Doctor *Honoris Causa* from the universities in Stockholm (Karolinska Institutet) 1973, Oulu 1983, Budapest (Semmelweis University) 1984 and Rostock 1990.

Arje Scheinin will be remembered by his colleagues and co-workers as a passionate pioneer in many areas of caries prevention. He was an exceptionally talented, determined and intelligent person with an almost endless capacity for work, which he used to the benefit of science and academic life in general.

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