Celebrating the Life of Dr John Zamet

Dr John Zamet, pictured, was one of the foremost names in periodontology during his lifetime in the profession and his legacy of teaching and research is being remembered in a grant established in his name.

Born in London in 1932, Dr Zamet was a dedicated student, who graduated in 1955 from the Royal Dental Hospital. Dr Zamet had always had strong leanings toward periodontology, and between 1956 and 1962 he worked in the Departments of Periodontology at the Eastman, Guy's Hospital and the Royal Dental Hospital, obtaining a Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1958. He was then granted a post-graduate Fellowship at the University of Philadelphia Department of Periodontics, where he studied under D. Walter Cohen, himself a legend in the dental world.

Returning from his studies in America, Dr Zamet became Senior Lecturer at the Royal Dental Hospital, where he was able to establish himself as a firm favourite with students, and then Consultant in Periodontology at University College Hospital Dental School. After the closure of the UCH Dental School, Dr Zamet moved to The Eastman Dental Institute, where he was appointed Honorary Consultant in the Department of Periodontology and remained there until he retired, albeit reluctantly, in 2001.

An illustrious career

During his time at UCH and Eastman, Dr Zamet continued to advance his own knowledge and career, as well as those of his students. In 1974 he was awarded an MPhil for his research A Comparative Clinical Study of Three Periodontal Surgical Techniques and he played an instrumental role in the establishment of the GDC Specialist Register in Periodontology. In addition to this, Dr Zamet was a Past President, Honorary Vice-President and Life Member of the British Society of Periodontology, a Member of the American Academy of Periodontology and a Fellow of the International College of Dentists as well as of many other professional organisations.

Among his many notable achievements, Dr Zamet was the founder of the first exclusively periodontal practice in London and was also the first UK periododontist to participate in the Birnenmark Oseintegration Programme in Göthenburg. He also approached Ambassador Walter Annenberg to fund the Annenberg Lecture and Traveling Scholarship, which sponsored the postgraduate education of three students and endowed the Annenberg Lecture for years to come. As part of his dedication to the advancement of periodontology and his work with charities, Dr Zamet served as both the first and twenty-fifth Chairman of the London Chapter of the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity and as Secretary of its London Charitable Trust which, in the 25 years during which he was involved, sponsored a wide range of projects both in the UK and in Israel, raising a sum that would have done credit to a major national charity.

John Zamet Memorial Prize

It is in memory of Dr Zamet’s passion for, and dedication to, periodontology that The John Zamet Memorial Prize in Periodontal Research was established in association with the Alpha Omega London Chapter and Charitable Trust. The prize provides an enviable opportunity for postgraduate students in the field of periodontology to gain recognition and financial help in the pursuit of their studies, with a £1,000 prize being awarded annually. Applications for the award are open to all UK-based postgraduate dental students studying for a Masters degree or PhD who are undertaking or who have recently completed original research associated with clinical periodontology.

Applicants are invited to submit a covering letter, a letter of support from their research supervisor confirming their supervision of the project, and an abstract not exceeding 1000 words to the Alpha Omega Trust. The abstract should give brief notes on the following:

- Background to project
- Aims
- Methods
- Relevance to clinical periodontology
- Start and completion dates (estimated completion date will suffice if ongoing)

Application is by three pages copies and an electronic copy, submitted by 31st December 2011 to:

Professor Andrew Eder
Chairman, The Alpha Omega London Charitable Trust
2nd floor, 57a Wimpole Street, London W1G 8YP
andreweder@restorative-dentistry.co.uk

Applications will be assessed and decided upon by a panel of at least two Specialists in Periodontology of Professorial Consultant status and the winner of the prize will have the opportunity to present the results and/or clinical implications of the research at a lecture meeting of the Alpha Omega London Chapter.

An Incredible Legacy

John Zamet was a man whose impact upon the world of dentistry cannot be underestimated, but his impact as a warm and loving teacher, colleague and friend is of no less note. Students and peers alike sought Dr Zamet’s advice and his open and giving manner was reflected in every aspect of his life and work. A well rounded and intellectual man, Dr Zamet went on to gain an MA at UCL in Holocaust Studies and a PhD from Oxford Brooks for a thesis on German and Austrian Refugee Dentists 1933 - 1939, The Response of The British Authorities, and was a constant source of wisdom and inspiration to family, friends, students, colleagues, patients and his devoted family.

Dr John Zamet is sadly missed but his legacy of education and love of his subject will be remembered by those he worked with, taught and influenced, as well as through the accomplishments of those in receipt of the The John Zamet Memorial Prize in Periodontal Research.

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