



IADT Life Member

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How did you develop an interest in dental trauma?

In the 1970s and 80s, as a young surgeon, I treated many patients with oral and maxillofacial injuries, often children and adolescents with traumatic dental injuries. At that time, the knowledge of how to treat traumatic dental injuries was limited. I wanted to learn and was invited to start research at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm with my colleagues Leif Blomlöf, Sven Lindskog, and Lars Hammarström and in close cooperation with Jens Andreasen in Copenhagen. Our groups carried out numerous experimental and clinical studies on healing after tooth replantation resulting in my doctoral thesis and several articles contributing to increased knowledge in this field.

What do you consider your main achievements in your professional career?

Helping trauma victims has laid a foundation for my research interest. I have contributed through my research, teaching, textbook author- and editorship to the understanding of treatment and healing of traumatic oral and maxillofacial injuries. As Professor of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery 2002-2017 and Chairman of Surgical Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry, Kuwait University I was part of a great team together with professor colleagues from all over the world and Kuwaiti colleagues building a complete Faculty of Dentistry from square one and an oral maxillofacial university clinic with a wide scope of oral maxillofacial surgery. Extensive research was carried out and resulted in a high number of scientific articles. As a result of our hard work, our faculty became a leading center and appointed WHO Collaborating Center for the Middle East and Africa region.

Inspiration

I have been inspired by two paradigm shifters and giants in dentistry and medicine: Dr Jens Ove Andreasen (the father of dental traumatology) and Prof Per Ingvar Brånemark (the father of implantology) and have had the privilege cooperating with them for several decades.

I have also been inspired during all my career by guiding, mentoring many young students and colleagues in undergraduate, graduate and post graduate development and mentoring many Master and PhD thesis projects

Education

Karolinska Institute in Stockholm (undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral studies up to thesis). Became specialist in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery in 1981. I belong to the first-generation implant surgeons trained by Prof Brånemark and his team.

What has been your involvement in the IADT?

I was one of the founding members of IADT in 1989, serving in many positions and committees all my life. I became president of the IADT for four years, 2011-2014 and Editor-in-Chief for the Medline index scientific journal Dental Traumatology for nine years, 2007-2015, when the impact factor of the journal was considerably raised from low to very high.

Describe if and how the IADT changed you professionally.

IADT was a one of my door openers to the world

Describe your contributions and accomplishments throughout your career

I have combined clinical experience with research, international textbook author- and editorship in Traumatology and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. I have trained implant surgeons from all continents of the world and introduced treatment with osseointegrated implants in the Gulf region in 1991. I was coordinating a resident program for 10 years in Sweden, educating and training residents for specialization in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery and have mentored several PhD and Master students to completion of theses. I also had the privilege to work clinically in a wide scope of surgery, trained specialists and colleagues on all levels, carried out research all my life and given the opportunity to present my research worldwide.

I have been an invited speaker to 41 countries, many as keynote speaker in Traumatology and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. I have been serving as a senior professor in Oral Maxillofacial surgery Faculty of Odontology, Malmö, Sweden since 2018 and board member of the Dental Trauma Guide Competence Center. I was awarded with IADT JOA lifetime achievement award in 2020 and managed to get dental injuries included in the WHO classification system ICD - 11

Describe any noteworthy activities outside of dentistry.

Sailing, travelling, golf

What advice would you give to current IADT colleagues/members?

Identify your talents, deepen your knowledge and skills, and share this with our younger colleagues. Try to be simultaneously active in all three fields: clinic, research and teaching.

Continue to develop our international association to stimulate interest in traumatology worldwide by arranging meetings and communicate research. Document, register and follow up all your trauma injuries in a standardized way. Merge materials internationally so we can get large materials in the future for systematic evidence based meta-analyses.

Family

Married, three children, six grandchildren