EDITORIAL

Gregorio Faivovich, 30 November 1923–13 July 2016, Founder of IADMFR

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It is with sadness that we report the death of Gregorio Faivovich, a true giant in the international development of the discipline of dental and maxillofacial radiology. This journal is the scientific mouthpiece of the association that he created and therefore, if it were not for his initiative, it would perhaps not exist.

Further, the spread of the discipline as a recognized speciality of dentistry within many countries was supported by sharing of ideas within the International Association of Dentomaxillofacial Radiology (IADMFR).

Gregorio was born on 30 November 1923 in Santiago, Chile. He graduated as a dentist (1948) and got his specialization in maxillofacial radiology at the University of Chile, a university to which he was bound during his whole career, and where he eventually became full professor. He gave classes for more than 40 years and was very active in the development of the university and his field in Chile. In recognition by the university community of his career achievements, he was awarded an honorary diploma from the Faculty of Dentistry and a medal from the University of Chile. During his career, Gregorio's primary focus was on academic investigation. He worked either alone or in teams of colleagues and published his studies in several national and foreign scientific journals. He also travelled extensively throughout the world sharing his work and ideas.

This combination of his love for research, his contacts with scientific societies abroad and his natural leadership made him, by the 1960s, come up with the idea of organizing a first international congress of dental and maxillofacial radiology. By that time, Gregorio was the president of the Chilean Society of Dental Radiology—a role for which he was elected for several consecutive

periods; he undertook the mission of convincing a group of local colleagues to support him in organizing an international meeting on dental and maxillofacial radiology in Chile. After overcoming heavy opposition from less optimistic colleagues, he finally managed to form a team with whom he worked extensive hours to gather everything necessary to make the idea real: support from key local stakeholders, funding, a venue and, most importantly, an international audience that would be interested in coming to South America to discuss cutting-edge scientific developments in the discipline. The first scientific meeting was held in Santiago, Chile, in 12–20 August 1968 and there were more than 1000 in attendance. IADMFR was born on 16 August 1968 during the first congress with Gregorio Faivovich chosen as First President and Dr Werner Hielscher of Germany and Dr Yoshishige Fujiki of Japan chosen as Vice Presidents. The 20th International Congress of Dentomaxillofacial Radiology was held in Santiago, Chile, for the second time in 2015 and meetings are scheduled at Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in 2017 and at Philadelphia, USA, in 2019, ensuring Gregorio's legacy.

Throughout the years, Gregorio was devoted to the development of the association, of which he was extremely proud. He was responsible for developing much of its first years' institutional organization and held diverse roles within it. He was eventually named IADMFR Honorary Member and President Emeritus, among other distinctions.

In 1974, Gregorio married Miguelina Recabarren, who is also a dentist and with whom he teamed in his private office of downtown Santiago. She was an active participant of IADMFR congresses and accompanied him throughout all his personal and professional projects. Gregorio and Miguelina had one son, Ricardo, born in Sweden during a stay at the University of Lund, 1975–6. He had two grandsons.

Gregorio passed away on 13 July 2016, at his home in Santiago. He is survived by his wife, son and grandsons.