

Pioneer of ceramic implantology

Prof. Sami Sandhaus dies at 92

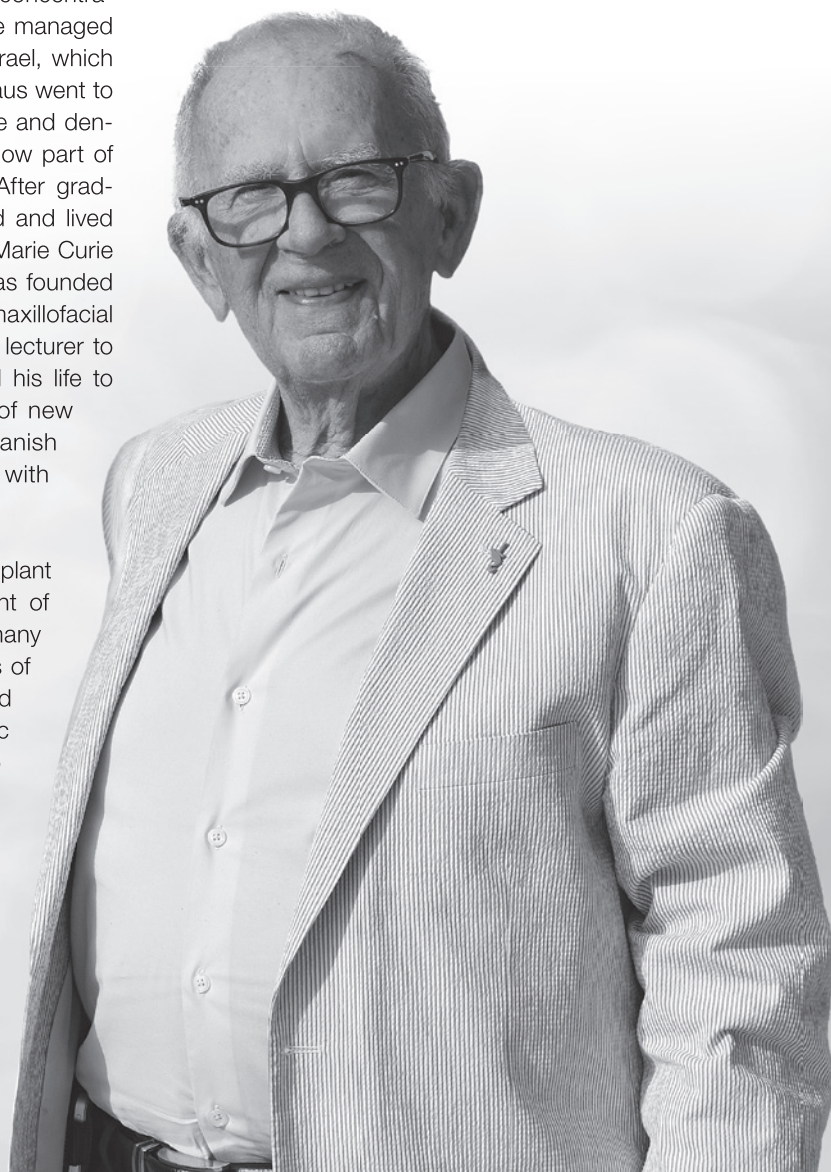
On the first weekend of October, a true pioneer in the field of implantology passed away at age 92 after a life of great success and achievement. In dentistry, Prof. Sami Sandhaus was best known for the development of ceramic dental implants. With the crystalline bone screw (CBS) implant made of white polycrystalline aluminium oxide, he succeeded in 1960 in creating a true innovation: a metal-free biocompatible implant. Under the name SIGMA dental implant, the CBS system was available on the dental market for quite some time, albeit in a slightly modified form.

Prof. Sandhaus was born in 1927 in the western Ukrainian town of Chernovtsi, which at the time was a flourishing centre of Jewish life and culture. Because of his Jewish ancestry, he was subjected to the horrors of the Nazi regime first-hand. At the age of 14, after Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, he was sent to a concentration camp. Unlike most of the deportees, he managed to escape, which led him via Romania to Israel, which was only formed in 1948. Later, Prof. Sandhaus went to Germany, where he studied human medicine and dentistry at the Düsseldorf Medical Academy (now part of the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf). After graduating in 1959, he emigrated to Switzerland and lived there until his death. At Université Pierre et Marie Curie (now part of Sorbonne University), which was founded in 1968, he specialised in dentistry and maxillofacial surgery and passed on his knowledge as a lecturer to future generations. Prof. Sandhaus devoted his life to research, teaching and the development of new dental implant technologies. He set out to banish metal from living tissue by replacing metal with biocompatible materials.

The development of Prof. Sandhaus' CBS implant marked a turning point in the advancement of dental implant systems. However, as with many new ideas, the realisation of the advantages of metal-free dental prostheses gained ground slowly. It is only in recent years that ceramic has been considered a material superior to titanium in terms of biocompatibility, healing time, wear resistance and aesthetics in dental implantology. Throughout his entire career, Prof. Sandhaus persistently sought to convey these benefits to dentists and patients all over the world. To this end, he

founded the Forum Odontologicum in Lausanne, an educational institute for dentists and dental technicians that offers postgraduate courses in restorative dentistry and implantology, and the International Society for Oral Rehabilitation. During the sixth International Academy of Ceramic Implants World Congress in Miami in 2017, Prof. Sandhaus was honoured for his lifetime achievements in ceramic implantology by IAOCI President Dr Sammy Noubissi.

Prof. Sami Sandhaus was invited as a guest of honour by European Society for Ceramic Implantology President Dr Jens Tartsch to the first congress of the society, which was held from 10 to 12 October in Zurich. He was unfortunately unable to take up the invitation owing to his poor physical condition.



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Dr. Fabrizia Luongo



Dr. Henriette Lerner



Dr. Giuseppe Luongo



Prof. Jerome Chevalier



Dr. Sam Bakuri



Dr. Pascal EPPE



Dr. Yung-tsung Hsu



Dr. Kenneth Van Stralen



Dr. Gerry Curatola

Dr. Sammy S. Noubissi

Lecture Title: Zirconia Ceramic Implants: A Decade of Experience and the Future Perspectives

Dr. Karl Ulrich Volz

Lecture Topic: Immediate Placement of Zirconia Ceramic Implants to Replace Infected Teeth with a History of Root Canal Therapy: Suggested Protocols for Success

Dr. Dominik Nischwitz

Lecture Topic: How to Use Macro and Micronutrients Intelligently to Boost the Osseointegration of Ceramic Implants and Help with Tissue Growth

Dr. Fabrizia Luongo

Lecture Topic: The Management of the Aesthetic Area with Digital Approach

Dr. Henriette Lerner

Lecture Topic: Esthetics in Dentistry; Implant Esthetics, Grafting Procedures, Biomaterials Science and Digital Technologies.

Dr. Francesco Mangano

Lecture Topic: Digital Implantology: The Modern Approach to the Implant Therapy

Dr. Jerome Chevalier

Lecture Topic: Reliability of Commercially Available Zirconia Implants: Mechanical Performances and Long Term Stability

Dr. Sam Bakuri

Lecture Topic: Ceramic Implant Placement A To Z

Dr. Pascal EPPE

Lecture Topic: The Interplay Between Electromagnetic Fields Pollution and Dental Implants. Fact or Fiction?

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Lecture Topic: Dental Aesthetics and the Placement and Restoration of Titanium and Ceramic Dental Implants Using Static and In Dynamic Guided Systems

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