

Remembrances of Jens Ove Andreasen



PAUL ABBOTT

Like most dentists, I first heard the name Jens Andreasen when I was a dental student in the 1970s, but little did I realize, or even imagine, back then the influence that Jens had already had on our profession and especially on the subject of dental traumatology, as well as how that influence would grow on me over the ensuing years. In the 1980s, I had the great fortune to study endodontics under the mentorship of Geoffrey Heithersay in Adelaide, Australia. Geoff and Jens were great friends. Geoff often talked about Jens with insights into his work and papers before they had been published because of their personal friendship. As I became more and more interested in dental traumatology, my admiration for Jens increased exponentially. Then, in 2007, when I was dean of the dental school in Perth, Western Australia, I invited Jens to be a visiting professor. He spent 2 wonderful weeks with our staff and graduate and undergraduate students—what an opportunity that was for everyone here! Jens was incredibly generous with his time, not just during that visit but for his entire career. He lectured all over the world and with multiple visits to many places.

Jens also had tremendous foresight. His idea of setting up a system to collect standardized records, radiographs, and photographs of trauma cases in the 1960s and to continue reviewing these patients for 6 decades has been 1 of the most valuable contributions to our profession. The collection amassed about 40,000 records—incredible! His main textbook is fondly known as the “trauma bible” in our school. The shorter version “manuals” were an innovation designed to make things easier for dentists and dental students to quickly obtain information about trauma cases. The Dental Trauma Guide is another example of how Jens used his foresight and innovation to further his aim of improving the management of dental trauma and to help the world at large.

He was working on research projects and writing papers up until he became too ill to continue. It is no wonder that a recently published bibliometric analysis of the top 50 most-cited articles in dental traumatology listed Jens Andreasen as the most-cited author.

Thank you, Jens, for all you did for dental traumatology, especially for our patients

who have had a dental traumatic injury. You will be sadly missed, but you will always be truly appreciated.

LARS ANDERSSON

Shortly after I graduated as a dentist in the 1970s, I went to a course in dental traumatology by Dr Jens Andreasen. He was years ahead of others by using 3 carousel slide projectors simultaneously showing clinical pictures, radiographs, and histology of trauma cases and his research findings. He inspired me and so many others to become interested in dental traumatology, and my doctoral thesis a decade later was on tooth replantation. Few researchers in dentistry have had such an enormous impact globally as Jens Andreasen, not only being a researcher with several hundred published scientific articles, textbooks, and manuals but also a very experienced clinician, scholar, and teacher reaching out to the field by lecturing worldwide and giving courses. Jens wanted to carefully listen to, and discuss with, those who were closest to the target group of all his research—the trauma victims. When Internet came, he saw the possibilities and a vision reaching out to every dentist in the world by creating an interactive Internet platform for the diagnosis and treatment of trauma cases, the Dental Trauma Guide, which today has thousands of followers worldwide. He was a truly dedicated scientist with a curious mind; he was always full of energy, always updated, and continuously learning throughout his life—a true visionary leader and paradigm shifter. One of my proudest moments in my professional life was when he called me asking me to be coeditor of his world-famous textbook. I have had the privilege of working with Jens for more than 40 years. He was a respected colleague and an exceptionally good friend with a wonderful sense of humor. Jens Andreasen has been a source of inspiration for so many of us interested in traumatology. We are standing on the shoulders of a unique giant.

LEIF K. BAKLAND

It was a bicycle accident at the age of 9 that later would make Jens Ove Andreasen begin a 6-decade-long search for better ways to treat patients with traumatic dental injuries. Riding home from school in Copenhagen, Denmark,

he had an accident resulting in a fractured central incisor that would need root canal treatment and extensive restoration. No doubt the dentist did his best, but the result was that Jens Ove ended up with a discolored tooth. His classmates quickly applied what they had learned in history class about the Viking king Harald Bluetooth and began calling him “Jens Bluetooth.”

One of the dental disciplines that already in the 1970s had begun to recognize the importance of dental traumatology was the American Association of Endodontics (AAE). Dr Andreasen was gaining recognition as a rising star in this new field, and the AAE invited him to give a lecture at its annual session in 1976 on the topic of tooth luxations. In 1984, he was 1 of the invited speakers at the First International Conference on Oral Trauma sponsored by the AAE and held in Dallas, TX.

Dr Andreasen became a frequent guest speaker at AAE annual sessions, and this connection with the association grew steadily over the years. He was trained in oral and maxillofacial surgery, but he very much enjoyed his endodontic connection. In 2001, he was awarded honorary membership in the AAE, and the association also provided him with a grant of \$60,000 to help him develop the Dental Trauma Guide, which he considered his most important contribution to the care of trauma patients. One of his last visits to the United States was to attend the 20th World Congress on Dental Traumatology in San Diego, CA, cosponsored by the AAE and the International Association of Dental Traumatology (IADT).

Mentor, colleague, and friend, Jens Ove Andreasen was all of that to me over the past 40 years, and my life was greatly enriched because of him.

GUNNAR BERGENHOLTZ

My first meeting with Jens Ove was at the end of the 1970s. It was at a time when the mechanisms of external inflammatory root resorptions in conjunction with luxation injuries were in focus for his research. A few years earlier, I had a publication pointing to the role of intracanal root canal bacteria in the pathogenesis of inflammatory root resorptions, which had caught his interest. Since that time, we met numerous times and also corresponded via mail. However, the distance

from Gothenburg to Copenhagen is not very far, so we should have seen each other more often. Nevertheless, 2 publications came out of our joint authorship, which were part of Agneta Robertson's thesis for doctor of odontology (PhD). In our meetings, our discussions were always on scientific matters, and, strikingly, his curiosity and desire to know the true mechanisms of clinical issues in dental traumatology, rather than achieving beneficial effects for himself, were his driving force. Indeed, it was always fun to talk to him. Last time we saw each other was at a dinner for the 2 of us in Paris. By his nicely organized textbooks and extensive number of publications as well as frequent lecturing all around the world, Jens Ove Andreasen will be remembered as the true father of dental traumatology for a very long time.

LARS BJØRNDAL

Decades ago as a dental student and while assisting apical surgery at my father-in-law Jørgen Rud's referral practice in surgery, I had the privilege to listen to spontaneous patient conferences between Jørgen and his dear colleague, coauthor, and very good friend Jens Andreasen. These conversations were often urgent discussions over the phone, with the patient sitting in the dental chair. Once I overheard the closing sentence by Jens, who said "the noble art of doing nothing." I never forgot that quote, especially from the perspective of a heavy clinical practice—doing nothing and having the courage sometimes to wait. This approach uses time as both diagnostic and therapeutic tools and avoids the seduction of hasty diagnoses and overtreatment. Having said that, he literally did not perform the noble art of doing nothing from the perspective of his academic passion and worldwide outreach. Few researchers and teachers in dentistry match the impact of Jens Andreasen. Jens took the initiative in the foundation of the IADT in 1989 and was its first president. Since then, 21 worldwide congresses on dental traumatology have been arranged. In 1989, he also founded the journal *Dental Traumatology*. In 2008, he founded the interactive, Internet-based Dental Trauma Guide, which today is a nonprofit platform available to all dentists worldwide. This is in addition to his *Textbook and Color Atlas of Traumatic Injuries to the Teeth*, now appearing in its 5th edition. When we occasionally met in his later years, he offered me his entire reprint collection on traumatology. I never received them, but it was best that way. Traumatology was a close part of his heart to the very last day. It is an honor to celebrate his life.

ELISABETTA COTTI

After completing my endodontic residency in Loma Linda in the early 90s, I knew very well who Jens Ove Andreasen was and his importance in the development of our skills in managing traumatic dental injuries. Every time our mentor and his great friend Leif Bakland discussed dental trauma, we residents used to refer to them as the "Scandinavian Mafia of trauma."

Here in Italy, Jens Andreasen connected with the Italian professor Damaso Caprioglio to help a group of Italian dentists found the Italian Section of Dental Traumatology. Under the guidance of those 2 leaders, the interest in dental traumatology continued to grow, and in 2010 the efforts culminated in us holding the 16th World Congress in Verona, Italy. With 500 dentists from all over the world attending, it was a big success. One of my best memories of Jens Andreasen was when, after the meeting, he and his wife Anna-Lena Hallonsten together with a few colleagues and our spouses went to enjoy a few days in Venice. While having a drink in Piazza San Marco with the live music and the special Venetian atmosphere, I caught his expression of pleasure and surprise—he showed the enthusiasm of a young boy!

GEOFFREY HEITHERSAY

Meeting Jens Andreasen for the first time during an overseas trip from Australia in 1972 was a wonderful surprise and marked the beginning of a long personal and professional friendship. Having read his 1960's significant articles on avulsions and root fractures coauthored with Erik Hjørtting-Hansen, I had expected to meet at least a 50-year-old man, but to my surprise the strikingly handsome youthful Jens arrived at the prearranged location in the Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen. His dynamism was immediately evident; he had a commanding voice and seemingly boundless energy, his walk was almost a run, and his enthusiasm and dedication to research into dental traumatology were infectious. Indicative of his generosity and despite his busy daily commitments, he spent a good proportion of that day with me discussing a wide range of topics relating to dental trauma. When we met again later that week, he kindly gave me a signed copy of the first edition of his *Textbook and Color Atlas of Traumatic Injuries to the Teeth*, which had just been published. Combining biology with practicality, this was indeed a unique book that I treasure to this day, along with my fond memories of Jens, who has been an exceptional benefactor to the dental profession.

LAMAR HICKS

Over the last 20 years, I had the privilege of working closely with Jens Andreasen as a member of the IADT Board of Directors and while attending numerous symposia and congresses around the globe. During research and organizational meetings, private conversations, early morning breakfasts, and social hours in Nagoya, Rio de Janeiro, Brisbane, Copenhagen, and other international cities, Jens fervently preached the hard truth that outcomes for dental traumatic injuries would dramatically improve if dentists would quell the compulsion to immediately treat every injury when observation followed by treatment if needed would benefit the patient far more. This conclusion was a truth that Jens derived from years of observation and research. His wisdom guided my own practice approaches and was central in my mentoring dental colleagues in both educational and practice environments. Jens's ability to uncover answers to nagging questions, ranging from the microarea of subcellular processes operant in dental trauma to the macroglobal view of economic costs to society of dental traumatic injuries, was unique and priceless.

Two weeks before Jens's passing, he sent me a personal e-mail, not complaining about his terminal condition but rather focusing on our long and productive working relationship. He also mentioned a splinting study that John Berude and I had conducted and was published in the mid-1980s, which subsequently led to the acceptance of the reversal of small ankyloses over time. Finally, he expressed deep regret that he would be unable to continue serving as an IADT director. His final communication stands as a testament to his selflessness, valuing of others, and unmitigated passion for improving the condition of millions of dental trauma victims around the world. His passing leaves a void in my life that can only be marginally filled by his legacy.

BILL KAHLER

My first introduction to Jens Andreasen was the opening of the 10th World Conference in Dental Traumatology in Melbourne in 1999. Jens was opening the conference. There was an audiovisual problem, and when the technician rendered assistance, he fell and avulsed a tooth, which was quickly replanted by Jens. This was a show with a stuntman, and once the shock subsided, the audience loved the theater of the performance—1 of many times with Jens the showman. More importantly, we know Jens as a man of vision and dedication, widely considered "the father of dental traumatology." His research

extending over 65 years has changed the way we treat and manage dental trauma. No greater tribute can be said of Jens Andreasen.

There was also Jens the social, hardworking, and supportive man. He worked tirelessly for the IADT and the Dental Trauma Guide to make dental trauma research easily accessible and known to us all. I first met Jens in Denmark in 2006 when I was an endodontic resident and Jens invited me to his home. Jens had neat piles on the very large dining room table comprising all the chapters for the soon to be published 4th edition of the *Textbook and Color Atlas of the Traumatic Injuries to the Teeth*. Jens was so polite with my concerned discussion about the textbook cover featuring a dental implant. Jens always made time for us all. My lasting memory of Jens will be his steady hand and thoughtful contributions in Dublin 2020 when the IADT Board, on which he also served, had completed the 2020 IADT guidelines for the management of dental traumatic injuries. Through his very large seminal body of work, he will live on. Vale Jens Ove Andreasen.

EVA LAURIDSEN

I started working with Jens 15 years ago and that was 1 of the defining moments in my life and my career. I was given the opportunity to learn from Jens. He became my mentor. Jens has been a great inspiration for me, not only because of his huge knowledge in dental traumatology but also because of the person he was. First of all, he was a warm and caring man. He cared about his patients, his colleagues, his friends, and his family. He cared about all the people in the world who had suffered a traumatic injury and that was his most important motivation. I have never met a person with as much determination and drive as Jens. He would never give up when faced with a difficult challenge. Through the last 15 years, the Dental Trauma Guide has been his primary goal, and many times it has been a struggle to raise funding. Other people would have given up. Jens didn't. At age 84, he suffered a hip fracture, but 3 weeks after

surgery he was back at work. His extraordinary drive kept him working until a month before he died. Jens was always on a quest for answers to new scientific questions. This ongoing curiosity and urge to understand were the driving forces behind nearly 400 scientific publications. His vision was to increase and share knowledge. Early in his career, he realized the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in treatment as well as research, and, therefore, he reached out to other specialties in dentistry. He saw the need for international collaboration and was 1 of the initiators of the IADT. Over the years, he gave lectures all around the world until the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic prevented him from traveling. Four days before he passed away, he said to me, "I still have so much I want to give." Jens had a fantastic life. He lived with passion and achieved so much. He made an impact on many people's lives. He was indeed unique. Thank you, my friend. May you rest in peace.

ASGEIR SIGURDSSON

What stands out in my memory when I go back nearly 30 years to my first interactions with Jens was his willingness to discuss my thoughts on trauma with true enthusiasm and interest even though I was a kid. Over the years, it never changed; he wanted to learn and share with everyone. Jens always seemed to have several irons in the fire. As I remember him, he always had a cloth bag or even sometimes a plastic shopping bag full of different plastic folders with notes and articles he was working on, and, when needed, he would fish out of the bag a data page or a note to further make his point. One of my fondest memories of Jens is when he was staying at my home in Chapel Hill several years ago; 1 of my children complained to me that the "man" had taken over our kitchen table, and it was so covered in papers that she could not do her homework. He had a good laugh when I told him, and, of course, he made a space on the table and helped her with her second-grade homework. Thank you, Jens, for your all your contributions to our understanding

on dental trauma. The whole world is in your gratitude, and thank you for your friendship throughout the last 30 years.

MARTIN TROPE

My main interactions with Jens were during my time as a member of the IADT. Ultimately, during my time as president of the association and editor of the *Dental Traumatology* journal, we had very close contact because he was the authority on dental traumatology, and for all practical purposes nothing meaningful could be achieved without his blessing.

A rather heated discussion between us during that time has left an impression on me to this day. As president of the IADT, we had constant pressure to raise funds and increase membership, and I felt his Dental Trauma Guide offered a tremendous opportunity for our association if we could charge for its use. Jens was adamant and quite emotional when he answered, "This is my gift to humanity, and I will not charge a penny for that gift." I think this sums up Jens Andreasen; he will always be remembered for his contribution to the literature and his beautiful and informative presentations. The exchange I described showed me it was all done for the correct reason—to help the patient and thus humanity!

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