

## Dr Julian B Woelfel: Farewell Emeritus Editor-in-Chief!



Dr Julian B Woelfel  
December 17, 1925 - September 2, 2017

It was with a heavy heart that I learned from Marcile, Julian's wife about the unexpected, sudden death of Emeritus Editor-in-Chief of the Stomatology Edu Journal, Emeritus Professor Dr Julian Bradford Woelfel, on Saturday, September 2, 2017.

On behalf of the editorial team of the Stomatology Edu Journal, of our more than 124,000 readers as well as the dental education community, our profound sympathy goes to his wife, Marcile, and their three sons.

The world of dental science has lost one of its fundamental pillars, Dr Julian Bradford Woelfel, who has had a unique impact on dental education. Dr Julian Bradford Woelfel was a person of exceptional generosity, integrity and clairvoyance. He was the author of the Dental Anatomy, and recently the 9th edition of this very textbook has been published. Dr Woelfel's book is widely used in US dental schools, for the US National Examination Board and for teaching worldwide. At his 90 years of age, in the Editorial addressed with utmost generosity to the readers of the Stomatology Edu Journal for its second 2016 issue, he shared with us his view of for a good practice, a view which was encapsulated in the very title of the Editorial, namely "Centric Relation: Didactic or Practical?" He is the holder of two patents for two inventions he gave to the Ohio State University.

Dr Julian B. Woelfel graduated from the Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1948. He taught clinical dentistry at the same university as a professor for 40 years and had a private practice making dentures for a period of 32 years. He was a Life member of the American Dental Association and kept his Ohio dental license for 64 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as a captain in the US Army Dental Corps, in charge of the Army dental laboratory there for 2 years.

As Research Associate he conducted research for the American Dental Association at the National Standards Bureau in Washington, D.C. for two years. He made dentures using many different materials to be certified for use in the US.

He was a Visiting Professor at various dental schools in Japan (4 months), Brazil (3 months), Taiwan (3 months), England (6 months) and Turkey. He participated in numerous meetings of professional societies and held conferences in 18 foreign countries, including Wales, Ireland, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania. He wrote more than 80 articles and chapters in seven dental books.

Professor Woelfel's research covered a wide breath of knowledge, going from topics such as centric jaw relation, the leaf gauge, impression materials and techniques, to varied occlusal schemes on dentures, mandibular and condylar movement in three dimensions, tooth morphology and facial measurements. Other topics included mandibular movements on young adults, comparisons between twelve denture base materials, electromyographic analysis of mandibular movements, and long term physiologic rest position and centric occlusion changes with complete dentures.

Dr Woelfel received awards for his comprehensive research activity by IADR, The Ohio Dental Association, The New York Prosthodontic Society, The British Prosthodontic Society and the Nihon University Dental Alumni Association.

After his retirement in 1989, he and his wife, Marcile, took very long trips to China, South America, Costa Rica, many South Pacific islands, Europe, Africa, Madagascar, and last but not least Easter Island and Papua New Guinea.

In 2001, upon my invitation as Secretary General of the Romanian Society of Stomatology, the second Romanian Society to be accepted as an FDI member, Dr Woelfel offered two free master classes. The audience, members of the Bucharest Society as well as the teaching staff of the Faculty of Dental Medicine in Bucharest appreciated the originality, scholarship and novelty of the two conferences on dental occlusion and dentures, Dr Woelfel's favorite topics.

After the classes, Prof Dumitru David and I accompanied him and his wife Marcile on a two-day Dracula tours, the reason and support of his trip to Romania. On the way back to Bucharest we had Dr Woelfel and his wife Marcile as our guests for the Easter dinner in our villa, in Breaza, Prahova County, a villa which was returned to us after having been nationalized by the communist regime.

I will always remember his unparalleled Christmas cards, the messages where he recollected the moments we spent together for the 2001 Easter and his annual news on his family.

Professor Julian Woelfel will remain in our hearts as a legend, a living flame dedicated to his profession, offering with the utmost generosity fundamental contributions to the generations to come.

Sincerely yours,  
M-V Constantinescu  
Editor-in-Chief

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