

It is with great sadness that we all learned the news of Prof. Robert Frank's passing away on August 7, 2020 at the age of 96. The whole dental scientific community is greatly indebted to Prof. Frank for his outstanding achievements and his engagement in oral health research. He has been a good friend and colleague to many of us.



Prof. Frank was born on May 21, 1924 in Strasbourg, France. He completed his undergraduate education at the Dental School in Strasbourg in 1952. Subsequently, he started his amazing scientific career investigating the microstructures of oral tissues, especially by use of the electron microscope. This led him to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1958, where he conducted his studies for one year. Nine years later, in 1967, he completed further studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland and continued further studies at the Dental School of the University of Manchester, England. However, the center of his life remained Strasbourg, where he worked from 1968 to 1990 at the Dental Research Center of Strasbourg. From 1970 to 1992, he was professor, Dean and Honorary Dean at the *Faculté de Chirurgie Dentaire, Université Louis Pasteur*.

Over these years, Prof. Frank became one of the, if not the world leading scientist(s) in oral micromorphology, and became especially notable for his use of electron microscopes. He made Strasbourg one of the world's most renowned centers for dental research.

Alongside his fundamental scientific work, he was devoted to the establishment of a European research community. Consequently, he founded, together with colleagues from other European countries, in the 1960s the Continental European Division (CED) of the IADR. He was the President of CED-IADR and the CED-IADR Treasurer over a span of many years. For all those, who at that time served as a member of the CED-IADR Board, the annual Board meetings in Strasbourg were legendary.

He was elected Sixtieth President of IADR (1983-84) and delivered his inaugural address at Sydney, Australia, on August 1, 1983 with the title: "The Need for an International Association for Dental Research" (*J Dent Res* 62(11):1102-1103, 1983). In 1993, he became Professor emeritus in Strasbourg. Prof. Frank was Editor of various highly esteemed scientific dental journals, such as the *J Biol Buccale*, *Arch Oral Biol* and *Calcif Tissue Res*.

To honour Prof. Frank, the CED-IADR decided in the 1990s to name the most prestigious scientific award after him: the Robert Frank Award. The winners are eligible every year to attend the IADR Hatton Award.

Moreover, since the 90s, **at every annual CED-IADR congress, a “Robert-Frank-Lecture”** is organised, highlighting the latest achievements in oral and (non-oral) research.

In addition to all these great scientific achievements, **Robert Frank was a good friend and a helpful mentor to many of us. We also appreciated very much his sense of humor and his esprit.** Furthermore, he was conferred the titles: *Officier de la Légion d’honneur* and *Officier des Palmes Académiques*.

After his retirement, **he devoted himself to another passion: painting.** He transformed the microcosms, which he saw through the microscope, into beautiful paintings – NanoArt (see also <http://sams.ics-cnrs.unistra.fr/en/resources/nanoart/>). Thus, in 2008, he introduced the idea of Nano-painting at the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI). **His works were soon exhibited in several Parisian galleries and thus he became renowned for his art as well.** Robert Frank sent us a photograph of one of his paintings (see image below) for the Robert Frank Lecture in 2011.

We will all miss Robert as an outstanding scientist and a good friend and this is how we will remember him. CED-IADR is therefore looking into special ways to honour the memory of Prof. Robert Frank.

You can pay tribute to the deceased on his memorial page and offer your condolences to his loved ones by expressing your sympathy here: <https://www.libramemoria.com/defunts/frank-robert-maurice/1af97172dad64ee8b99c5233f1a65b79>.

The Board of the Continental European Division of IADR (CED-IADR

