Obituary - Ian T. Jackson (1934-2020)

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In 1985, when I was a plastic surgery resident under Professor Ivo Pitanguy, I was instructed to hold a textbook about local flaps in head and neck which turned out to be essential for the whole of my professional life.

The author was a certain Dr. Ian Thomas Jackson of whom I had never heard before. He was a member of the Canniesburn Group, a world renowned center for plastic and reconstructive surgery in Scotland. The book was so clear and intuitive that anyone who read it was enabled to apply the concepts of geometry and its infinite possibilities to transpose, rotate, and interpose areas of skin.

What a pity! I lent this book to one of my residents many years later and lost sight of it forever. He probably assumed (perhaps rightly so!) that it was more use to him than to me.

Having been so dazzled by Ian T. Jackson through his book, I was fortunate enough to cross paths with him in person at international meetings, in addition to keeping up with and his work through papers in international journals. The articles he published always commanded great interest and respect, and our university group regularly discussed them at our Journal Club meeting at the hospital early on Tuesday mornings.

Two years ago, quite unexpectedly, I received an invitation to succeed Ian T. Jackson as Editor-in-Chief at European Journal of Plastic Surgery as he had to resign due to ill health.

I was obviously flattered to be asked, but at the same time, I was worried about my ability to fill the shoes of such huge personality and giant in the plastic surgery world.

Thank you Ian for your invaluable and unforgettable work, to which you dedicated your life.

The memory of you and your teaching will be held in esteem by many generations of plastic surgeons and by none more than myself.

Compliance with ethical standards

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