

ORAL HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY



In Memory of

Professor Poul Erik Petersen

It is with much sadness that **OHPD** announces the passing of one of the most important pillars of its Editorial Board.

On 19th March 2023, **Professor Petersen** peacefully left this world.

He was a visionary in the realm of public health, a tireless advocate for global oral health and improvement, and someone we were very fortunate to work with since 2014.

Professor Petersen leaves behind his invaluable contributions to the dental community, leaving an indelible mark on the field of oral health worldwide. He was strongly engaged in world-wide implementation research for reducing oral health inequalities through schools, oral health promotion in the workplace and by transforming oral health systems towards integrating disease prevention and health promotion. **Professor Petersen** played a pivotal role as the Chief of the WHO Oral Health Programme, spearheading its integration into the global public health agenda. Under his leadership, the programme achieved significant milestones, including the historic launch of the first-ever World Oral Health Report in 2003. **Professor Petersen's** dedication extended beyond the WHO, as he also lent his expertise to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and offered guidance to health ministries and administrators across the globe. Moreover, he played a vital role in designing and implementing community health projects in various developed and developing nations.

In addition to his exceptional work in global public health, **Professor Petersen** held the esteemed position of Professor of Global Oral Health and Community Dentistry at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. Later, he ascended to the role of Dean of the School of Dentistry and Vice-Director of the School of Public Health at the same institution. With an impressive body of work encompassing over 350 scientific publications, **Professor Petersen** made significant contributions to the advancement of public health research in universities worldwide. In 2018 he was awarded the Distinguished Scientist Award in Global Oral Health Research by the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), one of the highest recognitions in Dental Research.

His mission to improve dental health for all made him an inspiration to all those in the profession who met and knew him.

Besides his academic qualities, Poul was most appreciated by his students and colleagues for his good temper and willingness to help combined with a sense of humour, qualities which enabled him to make friends all around the world.

The news of **Professor Petersen's** passing came as a shock for all those who worked with him at **OHPD**. His remarkable legacy endures through his numerous accomplishments in the field of global oral health.

We at Quintessence Publishing and the members of **OHPD's** Editorial Board would like to remember Poul, and are deeply grateful for his dedication and all his valuable work for **OHPD** over the years; he will be greatly missed.

Professor Anton Sculean
Editor in Chief, OHPD

Professor Avijit Banerjee
Editor in Chief, OHPD

Dr. Marina Rothenbücher
Director of Journal Publications,
Quintessence