
Life and Death

Dear Reader,

Life is good and often very rewarding, especially if you love what you do and are subsequently successful. However, where there is life, there is death, which reminds us again and again that our stay on this earth is limited.

I have the sad duty to inform you that a member of our Editorial Board, PD Dr. Thomas Pioch, passed away after a severe illness. I had the pleasure of knowing him not only as a scientist, but also as a friend. During our common time in the executive committee of the Work

Group for Basic Research in the German Dental Association, we learned to respect each other and became friends.

Prof. Dr. H.J. Staehle from the University of Heidelberg, Germany has written an obituary for this highly esteemed colleague.



Professor Jean-François Roulet

PD Dr. Thomas Pioch 1956 – 2004

After a severe illness, Dipl. Phys. PD Dr. rer. medic. Thomas Pioch passed away on June 26th 2004 at the age of only 48 years.

He studied physics at the University of Münster, where he worked from 1985 on as a physicist, first in the Institute for Applied Physics, later on at the Dental School. For his work on the properties of hard dental tissues and biomaterials he was honored by the German Dental Association (DGZMK) with the German Miller Prize. In 1989, he obtained his Dr. rer. medic. under the guidance of Prof. W. Hoppe at the University of Marburg.

After being employed in industry, he started to build up a well-known and internationally open research laboratory within the Clinic for Operative Dentistry of the University of Heidelberg in 1990. Due to his efficient and open-minded working style, he was able to set up excellent, mostly interdisciplinary projects, the results of which were published in prestigious journals all over the world. Further, he committed himself to being a member of the executive committee of the Work Group for Basic Research within the German Dental Association for many years.

He was also a successful teacher, and well understood how to instill enthusiasm in his students for dentistry-related biophysical problems. In 1989, he obtained his PhD at the University of Heidelberg for Experimental Dentistry, and in 2002, he was promoted to Head of the Section Experimental Operative Dentistry at the University of Heidelberg.

Due to his international contacts he was a very welcome lecturer. His last, lengthier engagement was his sabbatical as a Visiting Research Professor at the Bioscience Research Center of the College of Dental Medicine, Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

His academic pupils, scientific colleagues, and friends mourn together with his young family, not only for a very talented teacher and researcher, but also for a good friend, father, and husband, who was abruptly taken from the middle of a very active and fruitful period of his life.