



Bernhard Guggenheim

The Board of ORCA is very sad to announce that Professor Bernhard Guggenheim, a former member of ORCA, passed away in his 79th year, on 27 June 2015.

Bernhard Guggenheim had worked at the University of Zürich (Switzerland) for many years.

When it became clear that the education of undergraduate dental students should include knowledge in oral microbiology, Bernhard Guggenheim was retained in 1967 to teach this important aspect of the dental curriculum. He served for nearly four decades as well-respected academic teacher. After having earned his PhD in 1972, he became Associate Professor and Chair of the new Department for Oral Biology and General Immunology at the University of Zürich Dental Institute. In 1992, he became a professor and Director of the Institute for Oral Biology of the University of Zürich Dental Center. Bernhard Guggenheim retired in 2005.

Using the most modern methods in microbiology and immunology he was studying the cariogenic properties of bacteria and became one of the world's leading experts in this field. He was also very engaged in fighting for caries prevention in the public. The symbol for the "Dental Man" which is meant to sign "tooth friendly" sweets was developed at his instigation. Furthermore, he was a pioneer in the study of the etiology of periodontitis, in particular, the immunological reactions of the host. In this context, he was successful in achieving important methodological progress with regard to the characterization and cultivation of anaerobic bacteria. In acknowledgement of his scientific merits he received many scientific distinctions including the award of an honorary PhD from the University of Umea.

Bernhard Guggenheim was for many years an active member of ORCA, and his contribution to the development of caries research is remarkable. In addition to other honorary awards and prizes he received, in 1972 he was awarded with an ORCA-Rolux prize.

Bernhard Guggenheim will always remain in the memories of the people who knew him, as an inspiring leader and bright personality, and an outstanding researcher.

*Obituary adapted after the Obituary of University of Zürich that was kindly provided by Thomas Attin.*