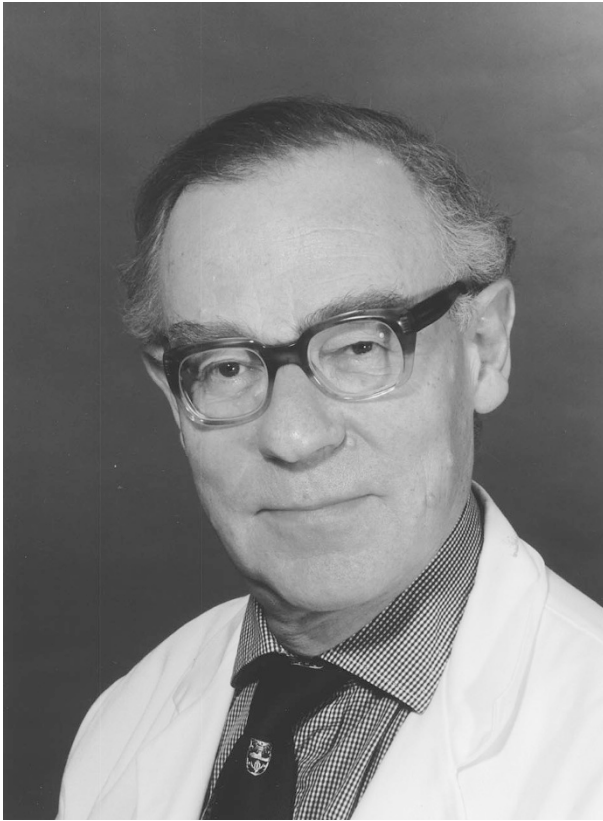




Dr Hans Frankel

President of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia 1996



Hans Frankel was born in 1932 in Danzig of Viennese parents and came to England before the Second World War. He studied at University College and University College Hospital London and qualified as a doctor in 1956. He became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London (M.R.C.P.) in 1964 and was elected a Fellow of the College (F.R.C.P.) in 1976. He was awarded an O.B.E. by the Queen for his services to Science and Medicine in 1993.

He came to Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1957 and worked as a House Physician in the department of Internal Medicine. Lorenz Michaelis showed him around the Spinal Injuries centre and introduced him to Ludwig Guttmann who recruited him onto his team as a Registrar and later a Senior Registrar. When Sir Ludwig retired from clinical work in 1966, Hans was appointed Consultant in Spinal Injuries at the National Spinal Injuries Centre. He has remained in that post ever since and he is currently also a Clinical Director of the centre.

His main research interest has always been the cardio-vascular system in tetraplegia. He started this work with Ludwig Guttmann and continued with John Corbett and Chris Matthias. Together with Guttmann he analysed and published the first results on the use of intermittent catheterisation in the acute stage following spinal cord injury. This was presented at the IMOSP meeting in Tokyo (1964) and published in *Paraplegia* in 1966. This paper revolutionised the management of the bladder in spinal cord injury. The Frankel Classification was devised as part of a 'Festschrift' for Sir Ludwig Guttmann's 70th birthday and was published in *Paraplegia* in 1969.

He has always been a dedicated Stoke Mandeville man and has endeavoured to raise and maintain the standards of care for the patients of the National Spinal Injuries Centre. He has demonstrated skill, tenacity and cunning in protecting the centre from the wolves that sometimes surrounded it.

For many years he was chairman of the Trustees of the International Spinal Research Trust and was also a chairman of the British Standards Committee on Wheelchairs and the Buckinghamshire Division of the British Medical Association. He is a life-long supporter of Sports for the Paralysed and was a member of the board of the Sir Ludwig Guttmann Sports Centre.

Hans is a man of many interests. He is essentially a family man with two sons—a neurologist and a dentist—and a grandson. Throughout his career his wife Mavis, whilst also holding a teaching post in dentistry at the University College Hospital London, has been at his side giving him support and encouragement and charming all those who have had the pleasure of meeting her.

Hans and Mavis celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary last year. They share a great love of the opera and still enjoy skiing in the Alps or in Colorado. Hans is a very amusing and most entertaining after-dinner speaker with a droll sense of humour and incisive wit.

As founder member of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, he has always been at the centre of the Society's international activities as Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Council member and member of the Editorial Board of the society. In 1983 Hans was awarded the Society Medal. His service to the Society has been constant and devoted and it was only fitting that he should have been elected to become its 9th President and lead IMOSP into the next century.

Isaac Nuseibeh