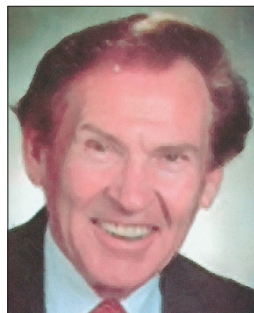


Robert Murray Ricketts



Dr Robert Murray Ricketts died in July 2003, aged 83. Throughout his life enormous energy and intelligence was directed at improving orthodontic therapy.

As a yet unknown, in front of a packed lecture theatre, Ricketts openly challenged Dr. Charles Tweed, the pre-eminent orthodontic specialist at the time, for spoiling peoples faces. Tweed asked Ricketts 'Why?' Amongst derisive shouts of 'put up or shut up' Rick-

etts answered, 'I don't know why, but I'll return next year and show you why I am right.' This brush with the establishment, was to be followed throughout his whole life with a relentless crusade to prove, through research, that he was right to challenge, what he described in a private communications as 'Fragile premises of unworthy authorities.'

Ricketts was born in a log cabin in 1920 in Kokoma, Indiana into a hard working farming family. The depression of the late 20's devastated the family business. When the tractor broke and there was no money for repairs and the mule died, Robert and his younger brother harnessed themselves to the plough. Farming ceased when the tomato crop brought after a summer of hard labour, only \$1 per ton. Ricketts left school and found work in meat markets as a porter and in a steel mill where he stacked bales of wire. In the evening he washed up and waited-on in restaurants. As a keen sportsman he earned money as a football coach and also worked as a dancing coach. He entered dental school by saving every cent he could gather. After graduation he served in the Navy as a dentist and was

...he waited-on in restaurants. As a keen sportsman he earned money as a football coach and also worked as a dancing coach. He entered dental school by saving every cent he could gather.

enrolled as a postgraduate orthodontic student under the auspices of Dr Brodie at Illinois, 1947. His enquiring mind led him immediately into research and his talents and hard work in this field were quickly recognised by Dr Downs who together with Cecil Steiner had developing the first (Steiner) Cephalometric analysis. Downs had a vision that one day facial growth prediction from Cephalometrics would help the profession to plan early intervention and prevention of malocclusion. He asked Ricketts to devote his time and energies to achieving this. Ricketts never forgot this request.

Ricketts finally retired from orthodontic practice at the age of 72 and went to live in Scotsdale, Arizona. He continued to teach in the USA, Europe, Japan, India and Australia where he made many friends.

Ricketts was married twice and is survived by four children, Robin, Gale, Craig and Anastar. He will be sadly missed not only by his family, but by his many students throughout the world, particularly by the 'Foundation of Orthodontic Research', an organisation he founded, sustained and which gained a great following throughout his life.

Winston B. Senior

Paul 'Jim' Reginald Vincent Sinden



Paul died peacefully at his home, surrounded by his family, on 4th August 2003. He was born on August 1938 and went to school at the Haberdashers Eske but left at 16 having, by his own admission, not done very well. He did his National Service in the RAF dental section where he gained his nickname of 'Lucky Jim', and then typically of his strength of character, gained the qualifications to go to Durham University where he graduated from Newcastle Dental School in 1966. After two years as an associate, he bought a NHS general

practice in Newport, Monmouthshire where he practiced for 30 years. until, in 1997, his health problems made full time general practice impossible much to the dismay of his patients whom Paul had treated with understanding, care and expertise.

Retirement? - Not Paul. He worked, part-time, in a busy NHS town practice, continued his work as a much respected Dental Adviser for the Gwent Health Authority and still found time for two days each week to have his renal dialysis. Paul was a very active member of the BDA throughout his professional career being President of the South Wales Branch in 1981. He was also a past chairman of the Gwent LDC and gained a MScD in 1983,

When those who knew Jim Sinden think of him, I am sure they will see the smiling face and the assurance that infected all around him both at work and play.

DGDP in 1992 and DPDS in January 2003. After his full time MScD course in Periodontology, Paul was for 5 years a part-time lecturer at the University of Wales and later co-authored a paper which was published in the Journal of Periodontal Research.

Paul was a founder member of the Lions Club in Chepstow to which he was a leading light until his death. He regularly attended and supported the St. Pierre church at the golf course in Chepstow and was also an avid golfer whose game can only politely be described as 'belying his swing'. When those who knew Jim Sinden think of him, I am sure that they will see the smiling face and the assurance that infected all around him both at work and play.

Paul will be deeply missed not only by his family and friends but also by the dental profession in Monmouthshire for his fair, sensible and honest advice.

His wife, Wendy, and his children, David, Michael and Matthew, to whom he was a rock, are in our thoughts.

Peter Nurcombe