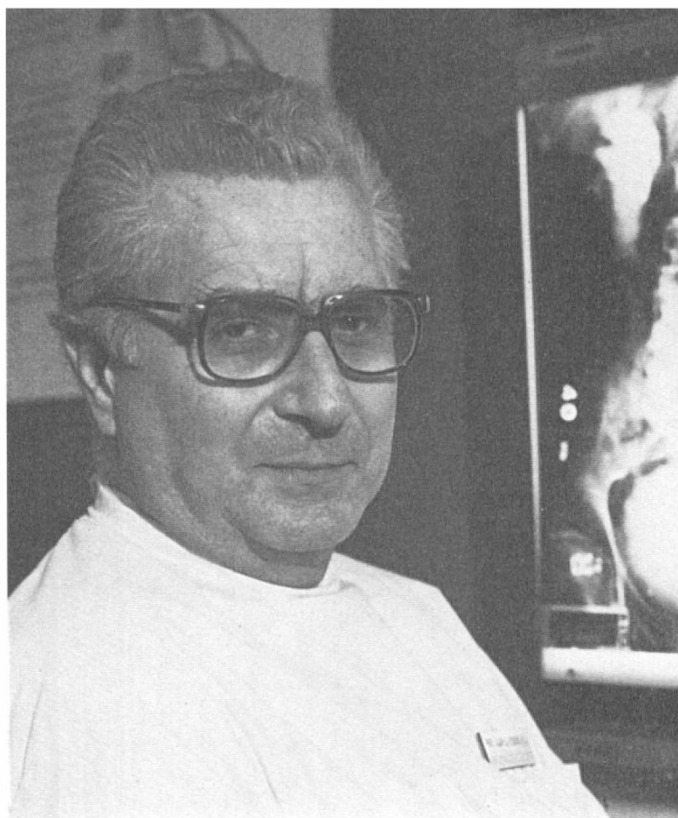


## A PROFILE

### THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF PARAPLEGIA

**Professor Alain B. Rossier, M.D., Ph.D.**



IT IS a pleasure as a personal friend, but also an honour for me, to write this short Profile concerning Professor Alain B. Rossier, M.D., who has been elected the new President of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia.

Many of us know him either personally or through his scientific work. His involvement as a specialist in spinal cord injuries started in 1957 and from that date onwards he has never ceased to occupy leading functions in Europe, especially in Switzerland, and in the United States.

He founded the Spinal Cord Injury Service in Geneva at the Beau-Sejour Hospital and then became, in 1973, Chief of the Spinal Cord Service of the Veterans Administration Center in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

He has also occupied several teaching and research posts, mainly concerned with spinal cord injuries, in Geneva, and in 1973 was appointed Professor of Spinal Cord Rehabilitation at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, U.S.A.

He is a member of many editorial boards. His list of publications concerning all aspects of spinal cord injuries is more than impressive. His scientific work and publications are acknowledged by all to be of very high standard. His first monograph concerning the rehabilitation of spinal cord injured patients was published in 1964 and was appreciated by all those working in the field; and with Dr A.G. Hardy he edited the excellent book on spinal cord injuries. His work is appreciated by all the leading personalities in the different fields of our speciality, but also in other specialities, such as urology, orthopaedics and traumatology.

Alain has an extraordinary knowledge of the scientific and human aspects of the consequences of spinal cord injuries, is a first class administrator, and should be an excellent President of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia. Needless to mention that he has been encouraged and helped by his charming wife, Birthe.

I would like to conclude this brief Profile with one of his quotations: 'My whole job is to show patients that what is important is not what is lost, but what remains. It takes some convincing. But when they get to this, they have accepted their disability and can make good use of it'.

PAUL DOLLFUS