

Carlos Eduardo Francischone

The current issue of Dental Press Implantology presents to its readers an interview with one of the most highly respected and important Brazilian professors in the Dentistry field. Due to his restrained behavior — especially for having been one of the editors-in-chief of this journal for many years — he resisted as much as he could to his colleagues' recurrent requests as well as to the continuous attempts of this journal editorial board to highlight him in this section.

After participating in the 1st Meeting of Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone's students and former students, held in the city of Campinas/SP — Brazil — in April of 2013, during which Dr. Francischone was interviewed by his former students at an auditorium for about an hour and a half, he finally agreed on having his interview, which was recorded upon his own authorization, used by this journal. It brings curious as well as valuable information of general interest related to the history of Brazilian Dentistry.

Born in the city of Dois Córregos, located in the countryside of São Paulo, Prof. Francischone — as he is widely known — has reported details of his academic success, revealing the trajectory of a humble Brazilian who is persistent in his aims and endowed with a strong personality, an acknowledged career and numerous gifts.

He has received a degree in Dentistry from the School of Dentistry — University of São Paulo/ Bauru, where he is a full professor due to his own merits, acknowledgement and competence. He has become a member of the Brazilian Dentistry Academy as a result of his achievements as a researcher and author of many books. He has advised more than 80 masters and doctors coming from many different states in Brazil as well as from different Latin American, European and African countries.

He is a dental surgeon in the very true sense of the term. He is considered a remarkable professor within the Dentistry field not only for teaching how things should be done, but mainly for practicing to the utmost degree what he teaches, with neither restriction nor omission of details, but for the pleasure of teaching. In addition, he is regarded as a professor endowed with desirable creativity and manual abilities to solve potential problems, complications or incidents occurring in daily clinical practice. Due to his wide experience in clinical practice and teaching, Dr. Francischone is able to perfectly reconcile theory and practice — always with the admirable humbleness of those who know all shortcuts and the best alternatives very well; in addition to knowing the most appropriate paths which have been presented to him by knowledge and experience acquired during 42 years of hard work.

With more than 200 articles published in scientific journals and more than 700 lectures and courses given inside and outside Brazil, he often goes around the world from one scientific event to another, being acknowledged worldwide as a respectful researcher.

Those who are privileged to have a close relationship with Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone can easily notice his indefatigable enthusiasm, peculiar to those who love their occupation. An extremely honest, sincere and righteous man who is absolutely fair with everyone around him, acknowledging those who deserve it.

Additionally, this interview presents his special interest in different sports as well as his passion for music — a hobby he has had for most of his life. Graduated in music at the Jauense Conservatory of Music, in 1967, he is the author of his city's anthem, written in partnership with Heusner Graef Tablas and Carlos Nascimento (a well-known Brazilian journalist). His family is definitely his greatest source of renewing positive energy, giving him emotional stability. He is married to Ana Luiza, father of Carlos Eduardo Júnior (dentist), Ana Carolina (dentist) and Fabricio (physician). He is also happy and proud to be little Lucca's grandfather.

Hereinbelow, we present a written record of what has just been mentioned in this brief introduction.

Franklin Moreira Leahy

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Prof. Carlos Eduardo Francischone at his clinic, flanked with some scientific books written by him.



The band "Os Gatos" (The cats).

We know that as a young man and an adult you have enjoyed incorporating all sorts of activities into your life. Such activities include not only your interest in carefully watching your father operate Santo Antônio Drugstore — located in the city of Dois Córregos, countryside of São Paulo — with which he was able to keep up The Francischones; but also your eclectic passion for studying music and setting up a band called "Os Gatos" (The cats) which remains until these days. In addition, you are also fond of indoor sports, such as table tennis, indoor soccer and chess, as well as other sports, for instance, basketball, soccer and sport fishing. Thus, what encouraged and influenced you, more than 40 years ago, to choose Dentistry as a profession?

Two were the factors that influenced me to choose Dentistry: The first one was the fact that I had a close relationship with my father at the drugstore where he kindly took

care of patients, dedicating himself for more than 70 years to such an honorable profession. I used to go along with my father on his "Ford Model A" when he went to his patients' houses to medicate them. At that time, I would repeat to myself how important and good it was to see a person being cured. And that influenced me to go for the health field.

The second factor was my passion for soccer. In my city, there was an excellent soccer player whose name was Estevinho (Dr. Wilson Esteves); he used to play in a Brazilian professional soccer team. I remember reading a newspaper headline that said: "People went to see Pelé playing, but saw Estevinho instead." He studied Dentistry in the city of Araraquara and set up his own office in Dois Córregos. He was an excellent dentist. I still have an amalgam applied to my teeth by Dr. Wilson Esteves when I was 10 or 12 years old...I miss amalgams so much!

In addition, when I was in high school, I used to hate studying Exact Sciences and Drawing, but I loved Biology. There was an interesting episode when I first started at



USP/Bauru School of Dentistry soccer team, 1969.

the University of São Paulo School of Dentistry — Bauru (FOB). On my first day as a student, Professor Noracilde Lima, who used to teach a discipline on Tooth Sculpture, asked each one of us to draw a tooth. The outcome was: my drawing was the worst out of 50. That terrified me, but warned me that I should improve. How could I become a dentist otherwise?

With determination, endeavor, devotion and lots of training, anyone is capable of overcoming difficulties and practicing the proposed aim with excellence. Perseverance is necessary!

These were the two factors that influenced me to choose Dentistry.

Within this same train of thoughts, do you believe that your interest in teaching arose while you were at college, as a vocation? Did it emerge because your colleagues and professors encouraged you to do so?

Or did it come out as an opportunity carefully prepared by fate?

First of all, I believe it happened because I see professors as examples, quite unattainable admirable people whose hands guide those who are and will be professionals — on whose hands the future of our nation depends. I must mention two professors, among many others, who exerted great influence in my life. Prof. José Mondelli and Prof. Waldyr Janson are great examples of excellence in teaching, in addition to being skillful and perfectionist dental practitioners. They are real icons.

By chance, when I was in my second year at college, I was invited to teach Biology in a preparatory course for students taking university entrance exams. I took on the challenge and enjoyed that new experience.

That is the reason why I was invited to teach Biology at a college in the city of Bauru when I was in my last year of the undergraduate course. During my last few months as a student, I was invited to teach four different subjects: Pharmacology, Anatomy, Prosthesis and Cosmetic Dentistry. At first, I was an assistant professor, but later on, I became a full professor.

That is when fate began to play its role: I was about to finish an amalgam restoration on a left maxillary first molar when Prof. Mondelli entered my box by chance and asked for an oral mirror so that he could check the restoration I was doing. It was “by chance” because Prof. Aquira Ishikiriane was the one liable for my box. After I had finished the procedure, Prof. Mondelli gave me the oral mirror back and said with a strong tone of voice: “Finish your work and go to my room.” I began to shiver as I thought something wrong had happened. When I arrived at his room, I asked: “What is wrong, professor?” He replied: “Starting tomorrow, you will attend the Cosmetic Dentistry Department and soon you will be hired as a professor.”



With his mentor, professor and friend Dr. José Mondelli.



Accompanied by Prof. Waldyr Janson, after the Tiradentes medal had been handed in by the APCD (Association of Dental Surgeons from São Paulo).

That was the deepest emotion I had ever experienced, as I felt that one of my ideals was approaching me. That is how I began my career at the University of São Paulo, where I have been teaching for 42 years.

Not a long time ago, Brazilian Dentistry experienced a period when Restorative and Operative Dentistry were the backbone of dental procedures. Many professionals were interested in practicing, studying, teaching and researching within this field, among whom you are, as a full professor of the Cosmetic Dentistry Department at University of São Paulo School of Dentistry, Bauru. Such focus also swung from Cosmetic Dentistry to Periodontology, Prosthesis and Endodontics. At that time, the Orthodontics field stood out as an independent and selective specialty aimed at elective and specific therapeutic procedures. Despite the importance of the specialties mentioned, don't

you believe that the emergence of osseointegration and, as a result, Implantodontics, has caused the different specialties to interact within the Dentistry field, allowing planning and treatment to be interdisciplinary?

The osseointegration phenomenon yielded new prosthesis retention methods which provide safety, predictability and longevity. Implantodontics itself has existed since the Etruscan civilization, but with discouraging results.

Today, it has enabled different methods of prosthetic resolution for complete, partial or single edentulous patients, as well as for the rehabilitation of maxillectomy and face-mutilated patients. Thus, dental planning and treatment have become more complex, requiring deep knowledge of Dentistry as a whole. Moreover, Implantodontics has been inserted within interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary contexts, involved with both medical and paramedical fields. I claim that Implantodontics is

the most dependent specialty. Alone, it does not offer neither the best functional nor esthetic results.

Therefore, the question is: How can we teach Implantodontics for undergraduate and postgraduate students?

Taking into account that you are a professor who originally worked with Cosmetic Dentistry, how did you deal with the changes resulting from osseointegration? When did you become interested in osseointegrated implants?

Implantodontics became part of my professional and academic life thanks to Prof. Mondelli's view and intuition. He once told me: "Ado, investigate this implant thing. It will soon be a success." That happened around 1988. He was right once more.

I should tell another story which demonstrates Prof. Mondelli's unique way of thinking. When I first started in the Cosmetic Dentistry field, he came to me and said: "You are going to have a masters and doctorate degree in Oral Rehabilitation with Prof. Waldyr Janson", who had recently arrived from the USA with a new interdisciplinary approach integrating Prosthesis and Periodontology. Then, I asked him: "Why shouldn't I go for both masters and doctorate in Cosmetic Dentistry, since this is my area of expertise?" Prof. Mondelli pointed his forefinger at me and piercingly replied: "Cosmetic Dentistry is something you must know. You should learn other things, especially Periodontology which can be applied to Cosmetic Dentistry. Additionally, you will apply Prosthesis and Periodontology to your patients." At that time, I worked part-time and also had my own clinic.

Prof. Mondelli's way of thinking brought into existence a new concept of Cosmetic Dentistry. From cavity preparation and restoration-oriented approach to integrated Cosmetic Dentistry interdisciplinarily associated with Periodontology



At his clinic where he has enthusiastically and gladly worked.

and Prosthesis. Based on this, Prof. Mondelli and his Cosmetic Dentistry team published the book "Integrative Clinical Treatment" (*Tratamentos Clínicos Integrados*) of which I am one of the authors. In my opinion, that is a landmark in Cosmetic Dentistry. I may be exaggerating, but there is Cosmetic Dentistry before and after Prof. Mondelli.

As for Implantodontics, he was really right. I had no idea of what Implantodontics was.

As soon as I told Prof. Mondelli that I was interested in Implantodontics, he called a friend of his, Dr. Clóvis dos Reis, from the city of Juiz de Fora, who used to work with implants. A week later, I was at Mr. Reis' office learning about Implantodontics.

Afterwards, Uncle Gastão (Prof. Dr. José Alberto de Souza Freitas) also expressed interest in using osseointegrated implants for rehabilitating cleft patients treated at the university hospital. That was when he sent me to the USA with Dr. Heli Brosco to take a course on the IMZ system and to internship at University of South Carolina, in 1989. In 1990, we took the first Brånemark System course.

It was taught by professors Lars Kristerson and Pelle Petterson through Nobel Pharma, at the School of Dentistry, in Bauru.

Two years after that, in 1992, I met Prof. Brånemark. At that time, he started working at the university hospital and I was invited to join his team whose purpose was to work with prosthesis in the rehabilitation of patients operated by him. That was when everything began to happen.

How relevant was Prof. Brånemark's coming to Brazil? How do you evaluate this phase of Brazilian osseointegration?

Prof. Brånemark coming to Brazil was very relevant. Uncle Gastão invited him to come to the university hospital via Dr. Laércio Vasconcelos. In 1992, he began treating cleft as well as maxillectomy and face-mutilated patients. He brought many benefits regarding patients' quality of life and self-esteem.

As a positive result of such a work, Prof. Brånemark published the book "The challenge of Bauru" (*O Desafio de Bauru*) of which I was both clinical coordinator and coauthor. Afterwards, he began treating patients at Sacred Heart University (*Universidade Sagrado Coração - USC, Bauru*) where he set up the Brånemark Osseointegration Center which I coordinated until the Brånemark Institute was built. Prof. Brånemark was the head of the Institute which was built on a site donated by the municipality of Bauru.

In addition, it should be noted that Prof. Brånemark contributed to the learning, spreading and prestige of osseointegration among Brazilian dental surgeons.

In the capacity of a renowned and acknowledged professional known not only in Brazil, but around the world for your theoretical and practical work, considered someone who has left a

significant literary legacy and who is capable of going from one specialty to another within the Dentistry field without any issues, how do you feel about being one of the pioneers who developed the first course and the first book for teaching Implantodontics in the country and, as a result, for being responsible for shaping great part of the scientific opinion in Dentistry?

In spite of not belonging to the first generation of Brazilians who began working with osseointegration in the country, I believe I have intensely worked in teaching, researching and treating patients with osseointegrated implants. By the way, it should be noted that the pioneer in using and applying osseointegration concepts in Brazil was Dr. Humberto Cerrutti Filho,¹ whose first implant record is dated of the 22nd of March, 1987.

The need for teaching Implantodontics based upon a solid foundation led us to the necessity of having independent courses included in the curriculum framework of our undergraduate and postgraduate courses, since implant training courses were no longer enough to make professionals feel secure in performing the procedure. Moreover, osseointegrated implant science and technology were quickly heading towards improvements and greater applicability. Dr. Laércio Vasconcelos and I had the opportunity to work together in the development of a different training course model in which, in addition to theoretical content and hands-on, we included surgery and prosthesis practice strictly and responsibly performed directly in patients. It was a hazardous teaching method, however valid for the time it was carried out.

Having this in mind, we created the first Implantodontics course in Brazil, maybe in the world, included in the curriculum framework of an undergraduate Dentistry course. It was compulsory and it first happened in August, 1996 at USC. Before that, in 1994, we gave an Implantodontics

course at UNIMAR, however, as an optional course. At the University of São Paulo School of Dentistry — Bauru, the Implantodontics course was first taught in 2006.

With the support of Mrs. Maria Isabel Leite, my sister, who used to coordinate the Biology Center in 1998, we implemented one of the first masters course in Implantodontics at USC. In 2007, we started with the doctorate course in Implantodontics at the same university.

I retired from USC in July of 2011. Nowadays, I coordinate both the masters and doctorate courses in Implantodontics at São Leopoldo Mandic College, in the city of Campinas, state of São Paulo.

I consider text books to be the most appropriate teaching tool. I published the first one about osseointegrated implants in Brazilian Portuguese, in 2000, and in English later on. Thereafter, other text books were published, most of them written in partnership with my students of both the masters and doctorate courses.

Thus, I currently have more than eleven books published in Brazilian Portuguese, English and Arabic.

Within both Cosmetic Dentistry and Integrated Clinic fields led by Prof. Mondelli, our team published more than twenty text books.

In addition to text books, more than two hundred articles were published and more than six hundred courses and conferences were given inside and outside the country. I strongly state my personal pleasure and fulfillment for having contributed to the formal professional and teaching education of many Brazilian and foreign students and colleagues.

As an expert and talented prospector, you have already discovered many young professors during your academic life. How do you see

Implantodontics teaching practice in Brazil? Even with plenty of courses set up in many different regions and important cities in the country, do you believe we are in the right track? How can we assess the quality of such courses?

Teaching Implantodontics is a complex task not only with regard to undergraduate, but also postgraduate courses, especially for its inter/multidisciplinary characteristic.

The important thing is that we have well-prepared masters and doctors who were taught by us and our colleagues and who have eagerly and competently devoted themselves to osseointegration teaching and research. We are delighted to have a close relationship as well as to learn with them. All of this is renewed with the opportunity we have to be around professors of unquestionable scientific competence, world-wide respectability, admirably ethical and moral conduct, and who are models that should be followed. Among many professionals who fit such a profile, I would like to highlight two who are closely related to Brazil, for their warming way of welcoming us and our students in Sweden (especially during the Brazilian Day, an event held every three years in Gothenburg. The next one is going to be held in 2014, in Malmö). Professors Drs. Tomas Albrektsson and Ann Wennerberg truly represent and deserve every single word I have said, not only for being honest friends, but also for the scientific exchange and research they strictly develop.

As for the new generation of professors, they are eager to teach. They just have to choose serious institutions and count on a competent team to develop their courses.

So far, my team and I have been given the opportunity to advise 75 masters and 51 doctors. Many of our former students have already got an academic career, with interesting scientific and didactic researches



Prof. Francischone's students in Gothenburg, Sweden, in front of the School of Dentistry, accompanied by Prof. Tomas Albrektsson during the second Brazilian Day.



Prof. Carlos Eduardo Francischone and Prof. Tomas Albrektsson during the second Brazilian Day meeting.

published in different universities, teaching at state, federal and private universities, coordinating masters, doctorate and specialization courses, working as editors and peer-reviewers of scientific journals as well as in consultancy and technology boards. They have already published more than two hundred articles, nationally and internationally. Additionally, they have published an average of 30 text books in Brazil and more than 50 book chapters.

Having qualified professors provides us with high-quality Implantodontics teaching, and Brazil occupies an outstanding and respectful position in this field around the world.

The great number of courses set up in Brazil, many of them at inadequate institutions, should be dealt with care.

There should be stricter and more frequent inspection carried out by government agencies. In my opinion, only authorized higher education institutions, such as colleges and universities under the approval of

CAPES (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel) and MEC (Ministry of Education), should develop and offer postgraduate courses.

Our former students' initiative of organizing biannual* meetings aiming to study and discuss different issues concerning not only scientific-didactic matters, but also those regarding the future of Implantodontics, may be an important channel through which they shall contribute to assess the quality of Brazilian courses.

Dental-surgeons themselves who are interested in taking a specialization, masters or doctorate course in Implantodontics should consistently and directly search for such courses in order to choose the best one for them.

You were involved in coordinating and teaching in *stricto sensu* masters and doctorate programs for 15 years. Is there any remarkable episode or any important incident which surprised you



Prof. Francischone and the chairman of the Brazilian Dentistry Academy, Dr. Brigagão, during the Academy induction ceremony.

in a positive or negative sense and which do you consider important to tell us?

Reporting remarkable episodes concerning our academic life is always difficult, especially because there have been so many of them, good and bad ones. I will talk about three.

The first one happened in 1996, when my sister, Maria Isabel Leite, a former coordinator of the Biology Center at Sacred Heart University (USC), gave us the opportunity to implement a course in Implantodontics in the curriculum framework of the undergraduate course. That was the first Implantodontics course implemented in Brazil, maybe in the world.

“Advising and teaching professionals, masters, doctors, researchers and professors is not enough. The commitment goes beyond that, as they will always have to be scientifically and didactically productive and up-to-date, never forgetting their social view.”

(Prof. Carlos Eduardo Francischone’s speech during the 1st Meeting of Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone’s students and former students, April, 2013).

She also authorized us to start a masters course in Implantodontics — one of the first ones implemented in Brazil as well. It all started when I had a meeting with her on a Holy Thursday. That was how everything began...

We were able to give classes, prepare students for the Implantodontics field and advise masters and doctors, as we have already mentioned.

The second episode refers to the fact that we have to deal with a research and teaching system which oftentimes does not go the way we would like to. In 2011, the Dean of USC proposed amendments in the postgraduate program to which I disagreed. In order to give total freedom to the Dean, I decided to retire. I had already worked enough time

* Interviewer note: The 1st Meeting was held in the Royal Palm Plaza & Resorts Hotel in the city of Campinas/SP on the 5th and 6th of April, 2013. The results were highly satisfactory and originated from discussions regarding the following issues: *Alveolar preservation: clinical and histomorphometry studies*, with Prof. Dr. Arthur Belém Novaes Júnior, *Techniques on how to speak in public or how to speak extemporaneously in order to catch the audience’s attention and curiosity*, with Carlos Nascimento, a well-known Brazilian anchorman; among other issues such as *Implantodontics teaching models, reduction in price of implants and other components, among others*.

which allowed me to apply for retirement, and I did in July, 2011. Nearly immediately, the Dean of São Leopoldo Mandic College, in Campinas, Professor Dr. José Luiz Cintra Junqueira, invited me to take up the coordination of two postgraduate programs: a masters and a doctorate one.

I was honored to be invited by him and I promptly accepted that new challenge. In October of 2011, we started working on those programs. Following our steps, demonstrating a surprising prove of friendship, professional trust and loyalty, 26 out of 33 students who used to go to USC spontaneously decided to transfer to SLMandic, entering the postgraduate course under our coordination.

That was a remarkable episode in the postgraduate program, maybe the only one happening in Brazil. Those students made a very difficult decision which involved many different consequences regarding logistics — moving to another city, going from one university to the other, formal and financial issues, transportation, rescheduling and trips, accommodation, adaptation to a new course, among other factors. They demonstrated the most legitimate and expressive form of respect, care and credibility that any professor, even the most experienced ones, could ever wish for. Even though I always tried to be idealistic, dedicated, hard-working and participative in all teaching and researching activities in undergraduate and postgraduate programs, that was one of the greatest demonstrations of recognition, prestige and personal emotion that I could have ever experienced.

Due to personal principles, behavior and character, I am deeply thankful to those 26 special students.

And the third meaningful episode that was remarkable to me during these 15 years in which I was involved with *stricto sensu* programs was our former students' initiative of organizing the 1st Meeting of Prof. Dr. Carlos

Eduardo Francischone's students and former students. I really take it as an extremely important episode which deserves to be mentioned.

Franklin Leahy, Angelo Menucci, Carlos Eduardo Francischone Júnior and Mauricio Rigolizzo advised these former students who were able to perceive that a postgraduate course is not finished when students receive a masters or doctorate title. It goes far beyond teaching and researching. It is necessary to re-evaluate whether our teaching and researching methods are up-to-date and if new tools are being created. Additionally, we need to discuss controversial issues related to teaching and researching as well as the possibility of extending such practice to the community. Thus, having meetings every two years, as proposed by my former students, is essential. By the way, the next meeting is going to be held in the city of Salvador, state of Bahia. The date has not been set yet.

Surely, their initiative demonstrates that they wish to be and are already becoming real professors. Certainly, they are going to be successful people. Quoting Tom Jobim: "In Brazil, being successful is an insult." It is a pity that many people think and act as so.

What is your opinion about the current market of dental implant companies? Is imported implant better than the national one? Has this industry created new jobs and contributed to the growth of the country? Has it been beneficial to patients?

The Brazilian market of implants is already broad and tends to expand even more in the next few years. It is one of the most growing markets in the country and around the world as well. This is due to many reasons, such as: more information has been provided to patients via means of communication and dentists; a higher number of products has been offered and more dentists



Official examination for the post of full professor at USP, with the board of examiners.

have been qualified to place implants and prosthesis onto implants; people are living longer and, as a result, the number of partial edentulous people is increasing with time. According to information provided by the Ministry of Health, 30 million Brazilians are complete edentulous. This research did not include any dental extraction cases, which certainly would increase the number of complete edentulous patients. According to information provided by the United Nations, more than 390 million people older than 65 are edentulous. In 2025, this amount will increase to 800 million. This means we will need a great number of implants, dentists, public health services and projects developed by the government available in order to treat all interested patients! This will be an issue not only for the Brazilian, but for the international community as well. Furthermore, we must take into account that the costs have gone down due to the fact that implants have become more available and affordable. Thus, more implants have been placed.

With regard to quality, both national and international implants have been considered appropriate and of good quality, thus, being beneficial to patients.

Nowadays, there are more than 1,500 implant systems registered and approved by the competent agencies.

The number of companies working with implants tends to increase, especially at this moment when the eastern ones are strongly investing in this market.

The Brazilian industry has developed a new segment, which has introduced technological development in the country — respected world-wide — and created new job opportunities. The demand for products has been so great that Brazil may not be totally prepared to provide the necessary workforce which is required to be highly specialized. Additionally, there may be lack of qualified elements used in the manufacture of implants and derivative products necessary to meet such demand.

With regard to research, we know that the public universities have given birth to the majority of new findings and technological advancements. Can we claim that this situation has begun to change with companies effectively participating in this field? Is it possible to believe that Brazilian doctors can consider the private sector as a new field of work?

Undoubtedly, not a long time ago, the majority of findings and technological advancements originated from projects idealized and developed by researches and professors working at universities, especially the public ones. We could highlight the names of innumerable Brazilian scientists who have come out with new inventions and findings in many different scientific segments. It is not different in the Dentistry field.

It is constantly moving forward, in an intermittent and voracious movement in which new equipment and new products are being developed in order to help us in many different and abounding treatment approaches.

Many doctors have been graduating from private universities which have been equipped with modern apparatus for developing researches and technology, similarly to what happens in public universities.

The participation of companies in this field is very clear and concurrent in different areas such as Engineering (CAPES — Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel; CNPq — National Council for Scientific and Technological Development; FINEP — Ministry of Science and Technology's Research and Projects Financing institution and FAPESP — Research Support Foundation of the State of São Paulo); Medicine (INCOR-USP — Heart Institute and FAPESP — Research Support Foundation of the State of São Paulo), Aeronautics (Embraer — Brazilian Aerospace Conglomerate and USP — University of São Paulo, CTA — Aerospace Technology Center of São José dos Campos with FAPESP), among others. On the 7th of June, 2013, the governor of São Paulo, Dr. Geraldo Alckmin, stated that he would make 17 Science and Technology Centers available, under the leadership of FAPESP in the state of São Paulo. More than 600 researchers will be participating in order to contribute to the development of Brazilian science and technology.

However, with regard to Dentistry, particularly in Implantodontics, such practice is immature, since it is a new specialty. Undoubtedly, doctors graduating in Brazil are within a new, fine field of work. Some of them have already been hired by respectful foreign universities and are highly respected and successful.

They need to value themselves in order to be valued by the companies. Such companies should invest part of their profit in serious, consistent and competent scientific departments (investigative and clinical) which would help not only in science and technology development, but also in the publication of journals internationally recognized, thus, accrediting, supporting and

contributing to build a fine history of trust and credibility. We can mention, for instance, the case of ITI (International Team for Implantology).

That may be achieved if the officers of such companies interact with their target audience more often, listening to them and accepting their suggestions in terms of improvement and adjustment of products available for sale, which should be more frequently examined and tested. The results should be carefully analyzed in order to bring the expected contributions necessary to improve the products, so that they may be safely and naturally accepted by professionals — who use and recommend them — as well as by patients to whom the effort is aimed.

It is important to have every research published, regardless of their results and without being subject to market, business or industry pressure. This shall contribute not only to build an image of frankness, transparency, nobility and credibility for the companies, but also will give dentists, in general, the guarantee they need to make the best choice regarding the most appropriate implant systems they are going to be using in their patients who will have the implant inserted into their organisms, hoping that they remain there for a lifetime.

When a product is available for sale, it is known that two different situations may occur: entering market competition against similar products or disputing the preference of consumers — in which case the consumers are us, dentists. Therefore, it is understandable and acceptable that parallel studies be carried out by serious and accredited research and teaching institutions without strong businesses links, in order to assess and confirm (or not) the features and advantages highlighted by the companies and their marketing campaigns. Research results which clearly aim at improving or adjusting products that are already of good quality are the basic and essential differential between serious and frivolous proposals.

Quoting Mário Quintana: “Research is the mother of progress. If men had not been lazy to walk, they would not have invented the wheel.”

I also work in Cosmetic Dentistry, a specialty that is much older than Implantodontics. In the Cosmetic Dentistry field, the research results are naturally accepted in spite of disagreeing with the companies’ interests. These companies use such results for their benefit, improving their products, spreading and reaching new business territories. We can see how much the dental whitening strips, compound and ceramic resins have developed — to mention only a few products.

According to one of the greatest renowned scientists in the world, Isaac Newton, “What we know is a drop, what we do not know is an ocean.” It is important that we reflect upon this thought.

Changing subject a little, we know that you are a family person. How did you manage to conciliate 40 years of academic activity with your family obligations? Have they always supported you?



Prof. Franciscone’s siblings, Leda Franciscone and Paulo César Franciscone, and their parents Mrs. Mirtes and Mr. Sebastião.

It is very difficult to express any demonstration of care, love and understanding involving our families. For those who are minimally recognized and thankful, their family will always be a source of renewing energy and, at the same time, their emotional “Achilles’ heel”. My wife Ana Luiza and my three children Carlos Eduardo, Ana Carolina and Fabricio have always given me unlimited support. Despite the fact that I over studied, over worked and was absent when giving courses, my family never highlighted my well-intentioned absences. Somehow, that is what hurts the most because I know that I missed many beautiful moments which I could have lived with my family. When I was with them, I tried to give as much attention as I could. But those are times that are not coming back. Nowadays, I try to compensate that with my 4-year-old grandson Lucca.

Nevertheless, I feel comforted to know that my family was happy — that they are happy — for my motivation and happiness to teach, passing on to my students and my colleagues the knowledge acquired during these 42 years of experience.



The Franciscones (from left to right): Carlos Eduardo Franciscone Junior (dentist), Ana Luiza (wife), Prof. Franciscone, Ana Carolina (dentist) and Fabricio (physician).



Prof. Francischone with his grandson Lucca during a show of the band "Os Gatos" (The cats).



At home, besides a genuine Steinway grand piano in which he can practice one of his favorite hobbies: music. On the wall, an oil painting by the Spanish artist Chema Rodriguez. It was given by his students during the 1st Meeting of Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone's students and former students, held in Campinas.

I am sure that if it were not for my family and some of my closest friends who have always believed, trusted and encouraged me, I would have quit these activities.

While I am given the opportunity to have family, friends, colleagues and students around, people who are eager to listen to me, I will be teaching. All I need is health. I like it.

When you look back and you see many of your former students teaching and multiplying knowledge, can you say it was worth it?

Of course it was and it is worth it! I still work and I always try to contribute to the education of good professionals, professors and researchers, passing on the pleasure of teaching and showing everything I have had the chance to learn. Above all, I always aim at acting in an honest, professional, humble and human way. Knowledge that is acquired, but not taught, hindered and not spread, is sterile.

Everything can be summarized as follows: a professor's greatest pride is to see his student overcome him. I am proud of those students who I helped to attain such position.

We cannot be scared of one's fame or prestige. We only have to respect them. I am very thankful to God and to life for everything. William Shakespeare stated that "Gratitude is the only treasure of the humble."

We know about a remarkable fact — which deserves to be mentioned — that happened during the years in which you were involved with osseointegration and Implantodontics. That was when you, a Brazilian dentist, always characterized by humbleness, enabled Professor Brånemark to informally meet Queen Silvia of Sweden at the Royal Palace, in Stockholm. Could you, please, tell us about the details of this fact?

It was very interesting! During one of my trips to Sweden, as soon as I arrived at the hotel in Gothenburg for another journey at the Brånemark Center, I received a message saying that I should call my wife, Ana Luiza.

I did call her and she told me that Queen Silvia would like to meet me at the Royal Palace, in Stockholm. That happened because Queen Silvia is a relative of a couple of patients we used to treat, and whose wedding we witnessed.

Between 1975 and 1976, I had to finish a complete oral rehabilitation in one of them, which allowed us some time to get close enough so that I could be a witness at their wedding. They used to tell the queen about our work on the rehabilitation of cleft patients treated at FOB and at the university hospital in Bauru (together with Professors Brånemark, Eli Brosco, Kenji Higushi, Dr. Laércio Vasconcelos and Dr. Assunção). The treatment was performed for free, thus, it had great social impact.

I arrived on a Sunday night and on Monday morning I got in touch with Queen Silvia's secretary. I told her I was in Sweden to have an appointment with Professor Brånemark and that I would like to invite him to go to the Royal Palace with me. She promptly replied that it would be a pleasure to have him meeting the Queen (the good part was that the secretary spoke Portuguese!).

I reported the news to Professor Brånemark who promptly accepted the invitation. It was a great and pleasant meeting in which Queen Silvia was impressed by the social impact of treatments performed at the university hospital, with thousands of cleft patients being rehabilitated. The university hospital is currently known as the Hospital for Rehabilitation of Craniofacial Anomalies/USP. It was built upon and has been working on the basis of a unique philosophy thanks to the dedication and effort of a great person: Uncle Gastão (Prof. Dr. José Alberto de Souza Freitas). Outside de Royal Palace, there

was a limousine waiting to take us to the train station. Prof. Brånemark used to take the front seat in the car. At this time, he preferred to take the back seat. At first, I did not understand why. Afterwards, on our way back, he rested his hands on my shoulders and thanked me for the opportunity to meet Queen Silvia and privately talk to her, which had never happened before despite the great importance Professor Brånemark has for the world.



Prof. Francischone, Queen Silvia from Sweden (Queen consort of King Carl XVI from Sweden) and the Sweden scientist and physician Prof. Per Ingvar Brånemark.

“The world shall be much better when envy, intolerance and ingratitude are banished!”

On recollecting a sentence of yours which says that “smiling is the ultimate expression of happiness”, what is the message you leave for Dentistry undergraduate students? Is it still worth it to be a dental surgeon? Can they make their dreams come true by working in the oral health field and rehabilitating orally disabled patients?

Our message to undergraduate students is that they indefatigably and insistently seek good moral and professional development, and that they practice excellent Dentistry — an amazing field of work which requires intense dedication. We are used to say the dentist is a different kind of artist. Painters and sculptors need to have their artwork thoroughly displayed whereas our art must be imperceptible. This becomes a daily challenge. Every day, we must thank God for giving us the opportunity to restore or maintain ones smile which is the “ultimate expression of happiness”, oftentimes restoring patient’s self-esteem, especially of dental mutilated patients who need rehabilitation in different areas of Dentistry.

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