



In Memoriam
JSP pays tribute to Dr. Robert J. Genco

A great star has fallen. Members of the Japanese Society of Periodontology (JSP) and periodontal community throughout the world were saddened to hear that Dr. Robert J. Genco, an honorary member of JSP, passed away on March 6, 2019 at the age of 80. We would like to send our condolences to his family.

Dr. Genco was truly a superb scientist in the field of periodontology. Based on his research on periodontal pathogen and host immune responses, he opened the door to research on perio-systemic relationships and built the foundation for a new paradigm, “periodontal medicine.” Among his achievements, he led many research projects investigating the relationship between periodontitis and diabetes mellitus, and dedicated to promoting such understanding, in collaboration with many researchers not only in academia but also in industry. Through his roles as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Periodontology* and president of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), he significantly contributed to the advancement of periodontal research.

Dr. Genco was also a great mentor. Seeking his guidance, scientists across the world came to the State University of New York at Buffalo (University at Buffalo, UB). JSP members who had collaborated with him were or currently are leading figures in pursuing our mission of prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases.

He gave special lectures at the 9th International Conference on Periodontal Research (ICPR) (Osaka, 1992; Chairperson of Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Hiroshi Okada) and the 50th Anniversary Meeting of JSP (Tokyo, 2007; Congress President, Dr. Satoru Yamada) and made a profound impression on JSP members. At the 50th Anniversary Symposium of the UB Oral Biology Graduate Program (Buffalo, 2013), many leading scientists and clinicians in the field of periodontology gathered to see him and celebrate this event, providing further proof of his greatness.

At many social events during the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), EuroPerio, and IADR meetings, Dr. Genco and his wife, Frances, always took time to meet Japanese participants. We truly miss such precious moments.

We, however, must look up and move forward. Following his wishes, we will strengthen our research efforts towards better health and quality of life for all people.

Dr. Genco, please watch over us. We are eternally grateful.



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Shinya Murakami, President
Atsushi Saito, General Secretary
Japanese Society of Periodontology