Professor Ian T. Jackson
The Scottish Surgeon

Ian T. Jackson was born in 1934 in Glasgow Scotland. The clear and elevate light of his life ended last Sunday the 2nd August 2020. He completed 86 years, which altogether were springs for the type of world where we all live nowadays.

Jackson achieved his medical degree in Glasgow and fulfill his plastic Reconstructive and aesthetic surgery training in the very high accredited West of Scotland Plastic and Maxillofacial Unit at Canniesburn Hospital. In 1969 he became Consultant there. In the following decade, he raised some concepts which became pillars of the modern plastic and reconstructive surgery, still in expansion.

In 1970 and 1972, together with Ian MacGregor another contemporary giant, they published in the British Journal Plastic Surgery two papers, respectively entitled 1- The extended role of the deltopectoral flap and the groin flap. Here the concept of axiality for flap vascularisation was raised for the first time which completed changed our perception, understanding and clinical applications in the use of flaps. Consequently, Reconstructive Microsurgery was idealized and subsequently emerged.

Another main contribution that he built, was Craniomaxilofacial Surgery with special interest in craniofacial anomalies and cleft lip and palate surgery. For this area, he was one of the fathers and a giant. On the other hand, his writings - Papers, Chapters, Books, foundation of the European Journal Plastic Surgery and his extraordinary oral presentations throughout the Continents, educated and help to raise other talent minds in our specialty. He was one of the great masters inside our field of knowledge. Ian Jackson became Professor and Head of the Section of Plastic Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where he expanded Craniofacial Surgery. In 1989 became Director of the Institute of Craniofacial Reconstructive Surgery as well as Chief of Plastic Surgery at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan. Prof Ian Jackson also spent great efforts as advisor and mentor for science and education in our field as PRS Editorial Board Member, Maliniac Lectures Selection Committee in 1986, visiting Professor for the Foundation in 1993 and Faculty Member in Canniesburn Flaps Courses - Glasgow Scotland.

Apart from Honorary Degrees, Acclamations and Awards from many countries around the globe, this great man was also granted with the Sir Harold Gillies Gold Medal from BAPRAS in 1996 and a Medal from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1998. But on the very top, his human qualities surpassed far beyond the scientific ones. His beloved wife and descendants are a lived testimony of the good paths of this elevated human being.

The most famous and high conscious accomplishment, was his trips to Peru in the 1970s and 1980s which led him to meet a young boy who was abandoned as a baby in the Amazon jungle due to a disfigurement that left him without a nose and upper jaw, along with a massive hole in the center of his face. The boy, David, had been rescued by a Swiss charity worker and was eventually flown to Glasgow, where Dr. Jackson undertook a series of groundbreaking operations to restore his facial features – the Jackson family ultimately adopted the boy, and Dr. Jackson’s wife, Marjorie, published a book. In 1985, the Boy David told this entire heartbreaking story.

Greatness in his soul.
Rest in Peace Wise Man.

ESPRAS has great honour on you Sir Ian Jackson

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