



Lloyd Miller

\* May 9, 1930

† November 11, 2007



## In Memoriam: Dr Lloyd Miller

Lloyd Miller died peacefully at his home in Union, Maine on November 11, 2007. He fought a courageous battle against cancer and received wonderful support from his wife, Ann, throughout his illness.

Lloyd was a man for all seasons. He was an outstanding clinician, dynamic lecturer, and—perhaps more importantly—a kind and generous friend. Lloyd managed to combine an academic career with his natural talents in operative dentistry. This is no small achievement. He was clinical professor of graduate and postgraduate prosthodontics at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and maintained a private practice in restorative dentistry in Massachusetts. He was particularly involved in dental technology and developed his own private laboratory and research facility, which was visited by many clinicians hoping to see the outstanding work being done. Lloyds' technicians held him in high regard, and he valued this trust more than the many honors bestowed on him during his career.

His research—both clinical and scientific—was recognized at the 20th International Ceramics Symposium meeting in San Diego in 2005, where he was presented with the first Lifetime Achievement Award by Quintessence Publishing. He served as president of the American Academy of Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics, the Academy of Dental Science, and the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. In 1996, Tufts University dedicated its new postgraduate prosthodontics clinic in his name. He received distinguished lecturer awards from the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics and the American Academy of Prosthodontics. In 1999, he received the Distinguished Service Award from Tufts Univer-

sity, and in September 2007, he received the Deans Medal from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

He was one of the United States' great international ambassadors and was much in demand on the dental circuit. It was my privilege to meet him when Quintessence Publishing held the first International Ceramics Symposium at Louisiana State University Dental School in New Orleans in 1983. His paper, "Tooth Preparation and the Design of Metal Substructures," remains a classic and is an example of his meticulous attention to detail and academic rigor. He expressed himself in a way that all could understand, a quality that made him a brilliant teacher of graduate and postgraduate studies.

I have many fond personal memories of Lloyd Miller. His Stetson hat and cowboy boots were a treat to see, and one could distinguish him even in a crowded airport terminal. He delighted my twin girls, Jennifer and Susan, who took to him instantly. As is typical of Lloyd, he let Jennifer use his precious, almost vintage two-seat Mercedes to race around Union when we stayed at his Cool Waters Farm.

My memories of Lloyd will remain with me forever—drinking dry martinis on his deck as the sun went down, listening to the wild turkey coming from the woods to feed and the cries of the coyotes looking for them. Then a visit to his wonderful wine cellar before dinner. Ann was a perfect host and a great cook. If I was to select one moment in time that I still cherish, it was a walk down from the farm through the meadow to sit on a rock by the St. George River in total peace and quiet. Lloyd picked me up in his tractor, and as the autumn colors shone brightly, it was great to be alive. Lloyd was an inspiration to us all.

*John McLean*



## All Works of Excellence: A Tribute to Lloyd Miller— Dentist, Teacher, and Mentor

### The Dentist

“All works of excellence require determination, effort, hard work, sacrifice and patience.” This is how our dear friend, the late Lloyd Miller, began his thank you letter to patients after each long and extensive dental treatment. In this way, he was recognizing the credit they deserved for understanding and contributing to the acquired success. His strive for excellence made him both a pioneer of new methods and materials—“never being the first, but never the last”—and a critic of any future developments in prosthetic dentistry that could lead to a satisfaction with mediocrity. His approach to dental esthetics was respectful to the human being and the natural dentition; he was personally convinced, and thus convinced his patients, that “ugliness does not belong in the human mouth.” His outstanding clinical skills and manual dexterity throughout his illustrious dental career, extending almost half a century, ranged from applying 12 splinted pin-edges involving almost 30 freehand parallelized pins back in the 1960s to the delicate work of modern adhesive dentistry and dental implants. He highly respected dental technicians and often spent time on the lab bench himself. He founded the Gnathos Dental Laboratory as an in-house dental lab that also conducted research. The philosophy that inspired his approach to collaborating with dental technicians was fully reflected in his quote, “There is little hope that dental esthetics will improve unless we dentists respond creatively to the challenge of actively participating in the fabrication of the dental restorations.”

### The Teacher

Immediately after graduating from Tufts University, Dr Miller joined the Tufts University Dental School as a faculty member. He held this position throughout his professional career. Common sense combined with a strong ethical message was the primary characteristic of his educational philosophy. His comprehensive approach to teaching fixed prosthodontics—he always referred to himself as “a restorative dentist and not a specialist”—stemmed from the profound conviction that dental esthetics and health cannot be approached separately. As a consequence, he initiated his teaching repertoire with gold partial coverage. Early in his career, he became a pioneer in developing the fundamental principles for the innovation of the ceramometal complex introduced in the early 1970s. His teachings equally addressed issues of tooth preparation with respect to the soft and hard tissues, framework design, ceramic optical behavior, and morphology. By the same token, he also became an expert in teaching all-ceramic restorations, laminate veneers, and color. As a genuine everlasting scholar, he always expressed his gratitude to his teachers, including Phillip Williams, Irving Glickman, and Robert Lombardi. He became more philosophical as the years went by, introducing ideas into his lectures such as standard of care and ethics in esthetic dentistry. Indeed, these were the issues he touched upon in his last three addresses at the European Academy of Esthetic Dentistry annual meetings in Cannes in 1997, London in 2000, and Zürich in 2006. Upon conclusion of his final lecture, the spontaneous and all-embracing standing ovation he received will always seal his memory within us as the last expression of gratitude and farewell.



### The Mentor

“A Time to Choose” was the title of his commencement address for Tufts University in 1996, which was published as a guest editorial in *the International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry* in the same year. This was the epitome of his accumulated wisdom as he advised recent graduates “How to be a dentist.” His presence will be missed; however, we will always treasure his contributions to the dental community and to his beloved students throughout the world. Ever since he graduated in 1958, he considered it an honor to serve as a dentist. In his own, loving way he invited all of us to face our mission likewise.

In October 19, 2007, he wrote: “The cancer has ravaged my body and now my brains are like mashed potato. I can barely move around and travel is out of the question. I am at home; I am at great peace having had a wonderful life and consider myself one of the luckiest people on the planet.” Lloyd Miller passed away 23 days later, leaving us all filled with a sort of joyful sorrow—sorrow for his last sufferings and joy for his courage and elegance. He has always been our teacher and mentor, but his final lesson surpassed all others.

*Dr Aris Petros Tripodakis*

### Editor's Note:

All readers are encouraged to register for the 22nd Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. The meeting, entitled “Esthetic Kaleidoscope,” will be held in Madrid, Spain, from June 26–28, 2008. Future

events include the 2009 meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, May 28–30, and the 2010 meeting in London, England, May 27–29. More information on these events can be found at the EAED website: [www.eaed.org](http://www.eaed.org).