

# ***Dr. Louis GERSON the Founder of the International Union of Angiology (IUA)***

P. BALAS, MD\*

I was privileged to meet Dr. Gerson, secretary general of the IUA, in Paris in 1964, during the International Congress of Angiology organized by Professor C. Olivier.

Dr. Gerson had invited me two years later in Paris to attend the Annual Congress of French Society of Angiology. He was very enthusiastic and hard working for the expansion of the activities of the IUA which had French as official language.

The official journal of the Societe Francais Angeiologie and of the IUA was "ANGEIOLOGIE" with Editor-in-Chief Dr. Gerson, who was also secretary general of the IUA.

Dr. Gerson although did not have any academic title or position, however was an outstanding and respectable personality leading behind scene the French and European Angiological activities through both societies and the journal.

At the the late seventies, as national representative of Greece to IUA, I developed close relations with Professor Olivier who was a dominant French-European angiological personality and together with Dr. Gerson I started planning the organization of the XII World Congress in Angiology in Athens in 1980, under my Presidency. Both were very helpful for the organization of this congress insisting however that the French language has to be the official language of the congress, and finally after my persistence they accepted as the second language the English.

My intention was the congress to be international inviting physicians from all the fields of angiological sciences and from all over the world. This objective was accomplished by receiving more than 1500 participants from 50 countries and five continents.

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Meeting of the new Executive Board of the IUA during the XII<sup>th</sup> Congress, at the Athens Hilton Hotel  
F. Pratesi, Italy, past President IUA; C. Olivier, France, member Executive Board, IUA; L. Gerson, France, past secretary general IUA; P. Balas, Greece, President IUA; M. Tesi, Italy, secretary general IUA; Z. Reinis, Czechoslovakia, immediate past President, IUA

In the opening ceremony of the Congress at the ancient theater of Herodus of Atticus, my inaugural address was in both languages English and French, for great satisfaction of Pr. Olivier and Dr. Gerson.

During this congress I was elected President of the IUA and in the General Assembly of the Union during the congress I proposed English as the official language of the Union, due to international character of this society, as it was evident from the impressive number of participants from all over the world. Also, I proposed the publication of a new journal of the Union in English.

Before closing the assembly I proposed and was accepted by all the participants, to proclamation of Dr. Gerson, as Honorary Member of the IUA, honor which for the first time was given to any officer of the Union.

Dr. Gerson was extremely moved thanking the audience. This was a small token presenting to Dr. Gerson for the foundation and his devotion to the ideals of the Union resulting to its impressive expansion.

The name of Dr. Louis GERSON, the First Honorary Member of the IUA, has to written with gold letters in the booklet of the history of the IUA.

V. ARFI, Pr. G. BALAS et M. CAZAUBON, IUA 2014.