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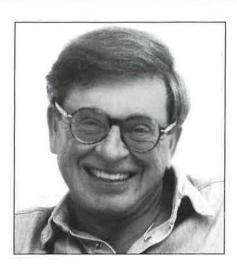
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Vale Manfred Lucas, MD

1938-1997

Contributed by Dowling B. Stough, MD

he field of hair transplantation lost one of its outstanding members, with the passing of Manfred Lucas on February 6, 1997. The community of hair restoration surgeons has been privileged to have a friend and a role model who willingly shared his knowledge and experience. Dr. Lucas was a soft-spoken man who received unprecedented respect from his peers. Manfred epitomized the term "a gentleman and a scholar." He was deeply loved by both his staff and his patients, and he treated all of those around him with respect.

Manfred was born May 28, 1938 in Pomerania, Germany, the second child of six (1 sister, 5 brothers). His father was a pastor. In 1954, the family moved to Westphalia, where Manfred went to school. He studied medicine from 1958 to 1964, and worked in various hospitals before gaining his doctorate in October, 1966. Manfred moved to Munich and worked from 1967 to 1973 in cardiac

surgery, where he assisted Professor Zenker in performing the first heart transplant in Munich. From 1973 to 1977, he was assistant medical director for the department of surgery in the surgical hospital of Holzkirchen (near Munich).

In the mid-1970s, Manfred became interested in hair transplantation as he himself was confronted with early baldness, and thus became enthusiastic about the concept of this form of treatment. On March 24, 1977, Manfred and a friend founded The Meditra clinic. Very soon, Manfred employed and trained additional physicians and started to develop specialized drills and other equipment for hair restoration surgery. During this same period, there were only a handful of surgeons in Germany performing traditional punch grafting or flaps. Some were also advocating dubious surgical procedures to "stop the balding process." In contrast, Dr.

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President's letter

by James E. Vogel, MD, Baltimore, Maryland, USA



As someone who lives on the east coast, the winter has not been too rough, yet I am certainly looking forward to the blossoms of spring. At the risk of sound-

ing too metaphorical, or at least too corny, I would like to compare the progress of our Society with the forthcoming spring season. Many of the seeds that we've planted earlier in the year are now coming to bear fruit.

The hard work and behind-the-scenes effort of those involved in the Barcelona meeting are coming together. Our first offshore meeting promises to be a truly international event with ample opportunity for our colleagues to present the latest in hair restoration surgery from their countries. In addition, there will be live surgical demonstrations from some of our European colleagues. Dr. Norman Orentreich will deliver the kevnote address at this momentous meeting.

The efforts that were put forth by myself and the public relations firm have also started to pay off. Our Society was quoted in the March issue of GQ magazine, and the following magazines will have, or have already, mentioned our Society as leaders in hair restoration surgery: Parade, Living Fit, Health, New Woman.

In addition, we have finalized our plans for going on-line! The Society has chosen an Internet homepage developer and in the next several months, we plan to offer the membership on-line opportunities as well as individualized identification to the Society's homepage.

I hope you have all received the new ISHRS directory by now. The directory has been compiled in a most professional and artistic way. I hope that you find it easy to use and communication is encouraged among our membership.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring season!

Don't Forget— BARCELONA'97 OCT. 15-19, 1997

ISHRS Membership Directories Available

The new 1996/1997 ISHRS Membership Directories have been mailed to all members, Additional copies are available from the Society (800/444-2737) for \$25.

Please note that the name of Martin Unger, MD was inadvertently omitted from the list of Board of Governors on page three. We regret the error.

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editor's notes

Farewell, Manfred Lucas

by Richard C. Shiell, MB, BS, Melbourne, Australia



Valentine's
Day 1997
started badly
for me in
Melbourne, as
I received a
fax announcing the interment of my old
f r i e n d ,
M a n f r e d

Lucas, of Munich, Germany. Like many other members of the ISHRS, I had known Manfred for many years and admired his artistic ability, his perfectionism, and overwhelming enthusiasm. He was a prolific contributor to *Forum*, and a check of the Index revealed that he had written on 16 different topics over the past 7 years.

I was saddened in the last two years to see him become somewhat embittered, as he felt that his field of hair transplantation was being entered by those with less noble motives. He sold his renowned Meditra Clinic, and was retired from surgery at the time of his death. I am including a number of reminiscences from our members, and our thanks especially to Dow Stough for his very moving tribute to Manfred.

New Instructional Videotape

David Seager sent me a copy of the latest version of his tape on how to cut micrografts with the Binocular Stereoscopic Dissecting Microscope. This is a truly excellent instructional video, well thought-out, and well-narrated. There is some amazing footage of the razor blade easily bypassing hair follicles and shafts which look like fence posts under the 20-power microscope.

Whether you are presently convinced of the need for this technique or not, I think this video is a MUST BUY for all physicians and assistants interested in hair restoration techniques. My personal opinion is that we will ALL be using dissecting microscopes for our hairline micrografts within a year or two, because there is no other way that we can guarantee optimum growth from these vital grafts.

At present, we generally require at least two sessions to get the same growth obtained in one by Dr. Seager and his mentor, Dr. Bob Limmer. Whether we extend the use of the procedure to ALL grafts will be a matter of economics, I suspect. Few physicians at present have enough clients to justify the larger staffing required to perform regular megasessions with this technique, especially as graft unit prices appear to be decreasing rather than rising. On the other hand, the technique may be demanded by patients of the future. Within a year or two, a hair transplant performed without the aid of the microscope might be as unpopular as a row of old 4mm plug grafts are today.

Hidden Treasures

How long is it since you last looked through your back copies of *Forum?* It can be a very rewarding experience.

While relaxing at my "hobby" farm over a 10-day Christmas break, I read through all the issues of the past 6 years, and was amazed at the "pearls" which are there for the taking. Many of the concepts were ahead of their time, and consequently ignored by most readers at the time of publication.

For example, Bob Limmer first told us of his use of the stereoscopic dissecting microscope in Volume 2, #2 in 1991, but we were all still trying to come to terms with the switch from plugs to minigrafts and not in a receptive mood for any additional complexity.

Joe Greco told us about H-factor in Volume 4, #4 in 1994, but we were all too busy worrying about the staffing problems caused by ever-increasing session size to allow ourselves to become concerned about possible deleterious effects of crush damage in our micrografts.

There are numerous other examples of techniques which have been suggested, but which still languish years later. Carl Shory advocated the Surgitron for donor strip removal in Volume 3, #2, 1993. He is still using it, but few others have taken up the challenge. The Mosers were advocating epithelial removal in 1992 (Volume 3, #1), but only Martin Tessler seems to have picked up on this (see Volume 3, #3).

Get out your old copies of *Forum* and try to read one every evening. You will find it a very productive exercise.

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