

In Memoriam: A Tribute to Jacob Sadé

Obituary

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“We are sad to announce that Professor Jacob Sadé, MD, a giant in our profession of Otolaryngology, passed away on March 16, 2020”. Turkish colleagues learned the loss of this great man by this mail from our friends Professors Ronen Perez and Avi Shupak.

Messages of condolences were exchanged with his family and ENT colleagues to express the sorrow we were feeling.

We learned from the message of Ruth , *“... Jacob passes away last Monday, at home, with the family, not having suffered for long – only during the last days of his life he was extremely unrestful and somehow felt he was going to die. He told us... Keep well and thanks again, Ruth Sadé”.*

Who Was Jacob Sadé?

Jacob Sadé was born in 1925 in Berlin to Dr. Naum Sadé-Sadowsky and Ronja Feinberg, both of Kaunas, Lithuania, who at that time were living in Germany. They immigrated to Palestine in 1930.

His father, one of the pioneers of otolaryngology in Israel, was also an editor of the *Acta Otolaryngologica Orientalia*. He performed the first surgical procedure for the improvement of hearing (fenestration surgery) in the country in 1947.

Doctor Jacob Sadé studied biology after graduating from University of Geneva, specialized at Massachusetts Eye and Ear (1954-1959), served as research instructor at Washington University at Saint Louis. These practices sympathized him with different techniques and methods and prepared him well for a career.



He returned to Israel to serve as senior surgeon (1959), to establish and lead successively two ENT departments (Haemek medical center Afula and Meir medical center Kfar Saba) in 1970 and 1971 and he was nominated as full professor at the Tel Aviv University (1975). He served as “Chief scientist of the Israel Ministry of Health” from 1974 to 1980.

He spent three more years in the USA as visiting professor at the University of Iowa and Boston University.

As a Friend

Personally, as a young professor of ENT I was aware of his name and reputation and met him first closely at 2002 when we invited him as the main speaker and guest of honor to Uludağ ENT Days, Bursa. Then, we met at Pulitzer Society Meeting (Amsterdam

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Jacob Sadé, Jacques Magnan, İbrahim Hızalan, Dan M. Fliss, Mirko Tos, Balkan Congress of ORL-HNS 2006 in Edirne, Turkey (Source: Author's personal archive)

2003), Mediterranean Society of Otolaryngology & Audiology Meeting (Porto Carras 2004) and the first time we shared a panel was in EUFOS Congress 2004, Rhodes, on otitis media with effusion. He was the moderator, I was one of the martyrs (!). What a big honor and what a big excitement to be “interrogated” by the biggest master! An unforgettable memory.

Today, I feel much more honored and privileged being asked for a tribute to him.

His contributions to otology have been recognized and honored around the world and many are grateful to have had his friendship, encouragement, and mentoring.

As a Scientist

His well-known and innovative articles are on middle ear mucosa (1966), pathology and pathogenesis of serous otitis media (1966), pathogenesis of attic cholesteatoma (1978), Eustachian tube function (1984), gas diffusion in the middle ear (1991), the correlation of middle ear aeration with mastoid pneumatization (1992), middle ear gas composition and middle ear aeration (1995), hyperectasis (2001).

He never stopped wondering and researching. Even after his retreat, he was still experimentally investigating the middle ear aeration and pressure regulation on hooded seals (2001), whales (2007), and also king penguins (2008). His last article was published when he was 84. Sadé's classification of retraction pockets (metulas) 1976, the description of “hyperectasis” 2001 and the definition of “herodion” are other unforgettables of him.

Professor Sadé had been an extremely active participant at international meetings, workshops and conferences, in many of these as the invited speaker and faculty member. He came to Turkey several times and visited parts of Turkey that many of us have not.

Professor Sadé has also been the Honorary Member of the Balkan Society of ORL&HNS and was the guest of honor and the invited speaker at Balkan Congress of ORL-HNS 2006 in Edirne.

Sadé was one of the initiators and organizers of the Mediterranean Society of Otolaryngology and Audiology (MSOA) and the Politzer Society.

Sadé was a member of the editorial boards of 10 international scientific journals and was the honorary member of 19 national and international scientific associations dealing mostly with ear diseases.

He was invited to present lectures at 166 international meetings at 69 universities in 25 countries and he initiated and presided over seven international ENT congresses in the field of hearing disorders and ear diseases. Sadé published 190 scientific papers in international scientific journals, 49 summaries and eight books on ear diseases.

As a Human

Professor Sadé merited the respect and admiration of his colleagues with his dedication, humility, kindness, honesty.

In addition to his outstanding research and clinical work, Professor Sade was an innovator and an amazingly dedicated teacher. He was a great listener; his friendship and mentorship continue to impact countless young physicians.

In Memoriam

The sad passing of a colleague, mentor, and one of the early leaders and visionaries of otology. May he rest in peace.

We will miss him deeply, but his contributions will continue to guide us.

Sadé is survived by his wife Ruth and his children Yoav, Ayelet, Nadav and Ron.