

PASSING OF PIONEERS

PROFESSOR MARCEAU SERVELLE (1912-2002)

Professor Marceau Servelle was born on April 6, 1912, at Auxonne (department of Côte d'Or in France) and started his medical studies at Dijon, then Lyon and finally Strasbourg, becoming "interne des hôpitaux" (1938). He was, at this time, a pupil of René Leriche following this famous surgeon and researcher to Paris when René Leriche was nominated at the College de France.

Following the examples given by R. Leriche, M. Servelle oriented his work to the venous system publishing in 1943 a study on the venous abnormalities in the origin of the Klippel-Trenaunay Syndrome. Subsequently, he published a plethora of works:

1941: performed direct lymphography in a dog and in 1943 direct lymphography in a patient with dilated lymphatics and the same year, investigations into chylous reflux syndromes;

1945: investigated the experimental basis of the link between venous stasis and bone growth;

1947: learned from Alfred Blalock his new surgical technique for the cardiac disease called "blue baby" and the cardiac catheterization technique exploration;

1950: with O'Neil, performed surgery on mitral valves and continued to perform this operation for French patients. Later, introduced the "Swan technique" using hypothermia for cardiac surgery;

January 1951: performed the first renal

transplantation in the world with Charles Dubost and Rene Kuss;

Professor Servelle authored several books: *The Chyliferous Vessels*, 1981; *Edème Chronique des Membres*, 1962; *Complications Vasculaires des Côtes Cervicales*, 1970; *Pathologie Vasculaire: "Affections artérielles et affections veineuses,"* 1973, and *"Affections lymphatiques,"* 1975.

He worked at Leopold Bellan Hospital and St. Michel Hospital as head of the cardiosurgical unit from 1952 to 1977. He was a member of a variety of scientific societies and a member of the "Académie Vétérinaire de France."

I first met Professor M. Servelle when I became an Assistant in the Department of Pathology at St. Michel Hospital. During this period of time, he treated numerous patients suffering from limb lymphedema by performing total superficial lymphangiectomy.

Without doubt, Professor Servelle has been a pioneering and very active surgeon and a scientific man. We will keep in mind his memory, the "souvenir" of a dynamic and charming individual, who passed from the surgical and lymphologic scene at the end of 2002.

Robert V. Cluzan, MD
Le Clos de l'Aumône Malnoue

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**7 Avenue Charles Bras
77184 Emerainville, FRANCE
Telephone #: 33-1-64 61 77 54
e-mail: malnoue@chello.fr**