

## Remembering Hugo

I would like to remember Hugo with a few words, as one of the most important things I learned of Hugo is that he did not like too many words.

I do not want to speak about Hugo as a doctor, researcher, scientist and lecturer. Everybody knows him and his huge achievements so well that it is useless to add other words.

I would like to speak about a private Hugo or, at least, what struck me about Hugo.

First, Hugo was a very modest man who assumed understatement as his lifestyle. He was not that kind of arrogant professor who likes to pontificate or look people up and down.

When I met him for the first time, he was already very well-known and very famous. At that time, he was the President of UIP. I approached him with “nice to meet you, prof Partsch” and he immediately responded: “my name is Hugo, not prof. Partsch”.

The same easy approach to everybody was one of his special characteristics, making him so different from other very famous and well-known people it is so easy to meet in our life.

Second. Hugo was extremely polite. I never heard him criticize somebody.

Even when listening to very bad presentations, or reading very bad papers with weird data or inconsistent conclusions, I usually criticized, sometimes heavily, but Hugo always responded “no, it is not so bad, you are too severe...”. The worst word he could say was “borderline”. Borderline presentation or borderline speaker was, for him, the greatest criticism. So, when a presentation or a speaker was “borderline” for Hugo, that meant that it or he/she was “very bad”

Third and last thing. What I always admired in Hugo was his curiosity, his wish, his willingness always to learn everything new, every innovation coming into play.

And, I repeat, I did not meet Hugo for the first time when he was a young student. I met him when he was already a famous professor, a successful scientist invited everywhere in the world to spread his knowledge in Phlebology and Compression Therapy. And he certainly did not need to add anything else to his endless curriculum.

Despite this, every new device, every new idea or concept was extremely attractive to him.

I remember that he flew to Lucca several times, full of enthusiasm, like a child with a new toy, to study, for example, the effects of compression by MRI and to Genoa, later, to study the effects of compression by standing MRI. Or when he went to assess the effect of progressive compression by strain gauge plethysmography or new intermittent pneumatic compression devices, or compression by elastic material and patches. Up to the last time to study the effect of a new compression wrap provided with a small pump adjusting compression pressure according to the body position.

I want to conclude my few words by simply writing that Hugo was a great doctor, a great professor and a great lecturer but, for me, he was a great man and a great friend.

Thank you, Hugo, for all you gave to all of us, and me.



**Hugo Partsch (right) at a recent international meeting with Giovanni Mosti.**