Obituary: Julien Reich
(1924–1992)

Ulrich T. Hinderer, M.D.
Madrid, Spain

Our ISAPS family has to say goodbye to one of its outstanding members, Prof. Julien Reich. To paraphrase Jorge Manrique, maybe one day, we will meet Julien again in the immense sea where our lives, like rivers, end. Therefore, I prefer to say “Auf Wiedersehen,” Julien, in the language he first spoke.

In obituaries, usually only favorable words are said, while negative aspects, unpleasant character traits, or adverse personal feelings, sometimes based on envy, are covered by a white blanket falling into oblivion or forgiveness. However, with Julien there is no need for face lifting. Only once actually, on the occasion of an ISAPS Course in Tokyo—so surprising because it was unexpected—we saw Julien losing his temper. His personality was full of positive aspects and I feel fortunate that I was given the opportunity to have known him, to have collaborated with him in the development of educational aspects within the ISAPS, and to have learned from his excellent lectures. The world only progresses through what we give, what we share with others in the quest for eternal values such as Goodness, Generosity, Truth and Justice, Freedom, and also Beauty. Julien has undoubtedly given much to his friends, colleagues and patients, maybe because of not having had an easy transit in this life.

Julien Reich was born in Cologne, Germany on August 16, 1924 and was educated in that city, in Paris, in Liverpool, and in Melbourne. Owing to unfortunate events during the prelude to World War II, he was unable to accept his admission in 1938 to the “Conservatoire International de Musique” in Paris. Julien left Europe and arrived with his parents in Australia in 1940.

He was a truly multifaceted man. Whilst being apprenticed as a furrier, Julien pursued his studies not only in music but in the sciences at night school and qualified to commence the Dental course in Melbourne in 1942. Awarded with scholarships, he was graduated with honors in 1947. During this time, as a member of the Victorian Symphony Orchestra and an accepted lieder vocalist, Julien continued to pursue his studies in these fields at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. He was an accomplished violinist, and even delighted us by playing piano on his last visit to Berlin in 1990, on occasion of the ISAPS Instructional Course.

Julien completed the degree of Master of Dental Science in 1950. Appointed to the chair in Conservative Dentistry at the University of Melbourne, he
Julien Reich initiated many innovations, for example, in Endodontia. However, having always desired a career in Medicine, he simultaneously took his medical course and graduated M.B., B.S., in 1954 with honors in Surgery. He completed his training for the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1960. He resigned his Professorship of Dentistry at the Melbourne University in 1962 to specialize in Plastic Surgery at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, and then travelled overseas to the Mount Vernon Center for Plastic Surgery in London in 1963. Julien completed his studies in aesthetic plastic surgery in Mexico with Mario González-Ulloa, in Brazil with Ivo Pitanguy, and in Argentina with Jose Viñas.

In the ISAPS, Julien served as Regional Secretary for Australia from 1976 to 1979 and was Second Vice-president from 1980 to 1982. Convinced of the need for an aesthetic plastic surgery society in Australia, he served as the Foundation Chairman and President of the Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery in 1978.

In my last Executive Committee meeting, held in Baden-Baden in September 1976, a decision was made to name a Course Director for each term of office with the multiple aim of developing guidelines to improve the organization of Postgraduate courses, selecting the Faculty, and directing the Scientific Programs of future courses. Julien was proposed for this post by Paule Regnault, and was unanimously elected. Julien asked me to serve as his Co-Chairman, and I accepted with pleasure. During his term of office, Julien arranged excellent courses in Tokyo (Japan), Bilbao (Spain), Lausanne (Switzerland), Ankara (Turkey) and in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). He was also the Scientific Program Chairman of the VIth ISAPS Congress held in 1981 in Tokyo. Guidelines for the organization of Postgraduate courses and basic criteria for the selection of Faculty members were established. The Executive Committee approved the suggestion to confer a Diploma of “Postgraduate Professor of the ISAPS” to all outstanding Faculty members who had contributed to more than 5 courses; of course, Julien was among these. To collaborate with Julien was easy and pleasant as he was a well organized man with excellent ideas.

Julien, above all, was an outstanding teacher: clear, straight, well organized and didactic. Based on his profound knowledge of psychology and psychopathology, his lectures about patient–plastic surgeon relationships (in which he did not forget to call attention to the possible pathological reactions caused by inadequate behavior of the plastic surgeon) will remain in the memory of his faculty colleagues and of all those colleagues attending. Julien was also one of the pioneers of “inferior flap mammoplasty techniques” for breast reduction and he described the usefulness of dermis grafts in secondary rhinoplasties.

In April 1989 a meningioma of the pineal region was discovered, explored and histology secured. After gamma knife surgery was carried out at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville in December 1989, Julien was able to continue with his work. A June 1991 report, however, indicated that further growth necessitated another operation. His health deteriorated, but with dignity and courage and constant care, love, and attention from his wife, Ada, Julien was able to rest in the beauty and tranquility of their home in the country. To his wife, with whom he was closely united, our deepest sympathy and thankfulness for her devotion and care both in the happy moments of life, as collaborator in his work and, above all, in the long period of time of encircling darkness.

“The life of the death consists in being present in the spirit of those living” (Cicero). Although we will have to miss Julien personally, he will remain with us through his lectures and publications and will also be in our memory as a straight and trustful friend with a great sense of humor.

Obituary: Julien Reich (1924–1992)

Leo Rozner and Benjamin C. Cohney

Perth, Australia

With the premature passing of Julien Reich, ISAPS and the plastic surgery community in Australia have lost one of their most colorful representatives and advocates for aesthetic plastic surgery. Since 1987 he had held the Professorship of the Post-Graduate Education Board in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery of ISAPS.

Julien Reich was born in Cologne, Germany and had part of his school education in Cologne, Paris, London, and Melbourne. From the very outset of his student days, he was a dedicated and brilliant student who matriculated for the University of Melbourne in 1943. Commencing a dental course, he graduated from the University of Melbourne in Dental Science in 1947 taking first place on the final examination list. His academic talents led him along a career path to the very top of his dental profession; he was appointed as Professor of Conservative Den-