



Alessandro DAL MONTE (1924, Massalombarda – 2012, Bologna, Italy)

EPOS Founder (1982)

3rd EPOS President (1987 – 1989)

Professor Dal Monte graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Bologna in 1946, and in the same year, he joined the “Rizzoli” Orthopaedic Institute as voluntary assistant. In 1954, after one year at the “Codivilla-Putti” Institute in Cortina d’Ampezzo, he came back as assistant at the “Rizzoli”. Anticipating the evolution of paediatric orthopedics into a distinct subspecialty and the need for specialized care for children, he founded the Pediatric Orthopedics and Traumatology Department at the Rizzoli Institute in 1965, officially establishing it as a separate entity from adult orthopedic units. He led the department until his retirement in 1989. Freelancer since 1989, he continued to practice orthopaedics surgery in Bologna for many years.

In 1960 he was awarded the Libera Docenza in Clinica Ortopedica. From 1962 to 1989 he was Professor of Orthopaedic at the School of specialization in Orthopaedics at the University of Bologna.

In 1982, the Italian Society of Pediatric Orthopedics (SITOP) was founded, and Alessandro Dal Monte was its first President from 1982 to 1986. He organized the inaugural congress of the Society at the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli in Bologna. In 1985, he contributed to the official journal of the SITOP, named “Rivista Italiana di Ortopedia e Traumatologia Pediatrica” [a].



Contribution to EPOS:

Professor Dal Monte belongs to the group of the 13 European surgeons who founded EPOS in Paris, Hôpital Bretonneau, on 13th March 1982.

On the 16th of March 1985, Alessandro Dal Monte chaired the 4th annual meeting at the Rizzoli Institute, Bologna, Italy. Twenty free papers were presented with wide discussion. For the first time, a North American colleague, J. Bright, took part in an EPOS meeting. The General Assembly gave approval to two study groups: one about DDH treated with Pavlik harness chaired by Franz Grill, and the second about the Perthes disease conducted by Anthony Catterall.

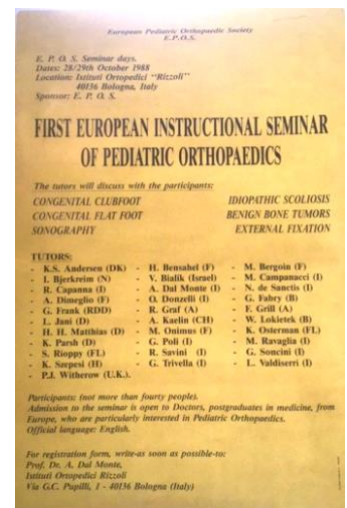
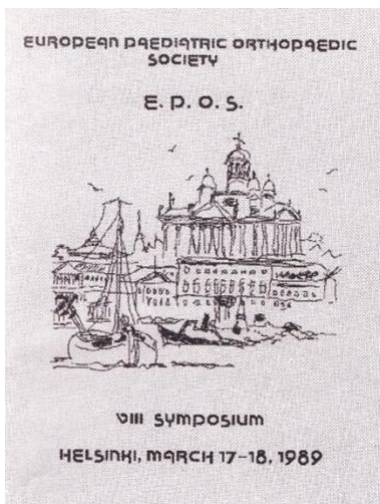
In 1985 during the General Assembly at the same meeting held by himself in Bologna, he was elected Vice-President.

On 28th-29th October 1988, Professor Dal Monte organized the first EPOS Seminar in Bologna. Many topics were taught. The number of participants was limited to 40, as there were 31 Faculty.

Under Dal Monte’s presidency, two EPOS annual meetings were organized:

- The 7th annual meeting held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, at the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis (“Our Lady Hospital”), on the 25-26th of March 1988 (local host: Jan van der Eijken). The main topic was the clubfoot. 70 participants were present, including 7 colleagues from the USA: J Bright, S.Coleman, R.Hensinger, R.Lindseth, G.Simmons, L.Staheli and K.Wilkins. Jean Prévot had the opportunity to present the Nancy nail technique during a lunch symposium.

- The 8th annual meeting was organized by Soini Ryöppy in Helsinki, Finland at the Hanasaari Cultural Centre on the 17-18th March 1989. The main topic was limb lengthening. A questionnaire on the results of this topic was presented and discussed by Alessandro Dal Monte, José Cañadell and Wladyslaw Lokietek. EPOS proposed to invite colleagues from Eastern Germany. But, despite offering full travel expenses and a visa from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Jürgen Franke from East Germany and other had not been authorized to cross the borders. The new board was elected as follow: Henri Bensahel (President), Jørgen Reimers (Vice-President), Alain Diméglio (General Secretary), André Kaelin (Treasurer), Viktor Bialik, José Cañadell, Jan van der Eijken and Peter Withdraw (advisors).



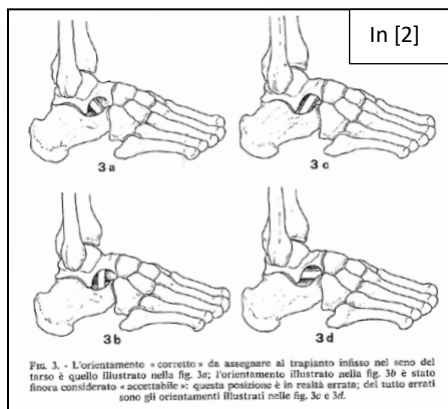
Professor Dal Monte was awarded Honorary Membership by President Klaus Parsch in Heidelberg in 1997 during the 18th annual meeting (local host: Lutz Jani) and Pro Maximis Meritis by President Dietrich Schlenzka in Zagreb in 2010 at the 29th annual meeting

(local host: Darko Anticevic).

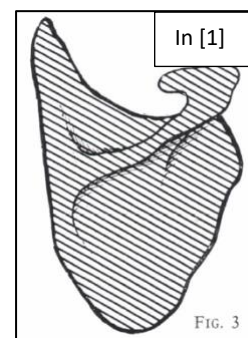
Contribution to Paediatric Orthopaedics

Dal Monte has published many scientific papers, mainly on infantile joint and bone diseases: dislocation of the patella, DDH, pelvic osteotomy, trochanteroplasty, club foot, scoliosis, congenital pseudarthrosis, lombo-sacral agenesis, bone lengthening, Perthes disease, fractures, bone tumors, constrictive bands...

One of his first publication concerned the scapula alta with a series of 69 operated cases with a scapulopexy. Poor results were due to an insufficient scapula lowering, an associated scoliosis, and a “pagoda” deformity. In the two later, he recommended a resection of the supero medial angle [1].

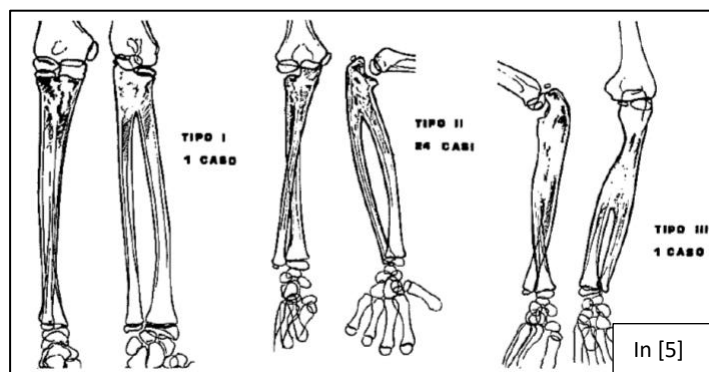


Dal Monte reviewed the results of 90 operations for idiopathic flat foot treated by Grice's operation combined with reconstruction of the glenoid ligament and anterior transposition of the tibialis posterior. The results were good as far as the bone graft was correctly placed. The best results were obtained between 9 and 13 years old [2].



As many Italian surgeons at the beginning of the 80's, Dal Monte developed bone lengthening procedures in Bologna. After a publication of 7 humeral lengthening, he published in 1987 a series of 13 tibia lengthening with the Ilizarov fixator. The mean bone lengthening was 36% of the tibia length (13 to 45%). He reported some complications as breakage of the K-wires, pin tract infection (10%), 6 contractures of the knee and 5 equinus of the ankle, 4 of them needed a surgical procedure [3].

In 1987, Dal Monte wrote two papers on congenital radio ulnar synostosis. In the first, he described a classification with three types. Type I: incomplete synostosis (16.2%): the ossification nucleus of the radial capitellum is consistently appreciated; there is neither procurvatum of the radius nor dislocation of the distal RU joint. Type II: complete synostosis (81%): the nucleus of the radial capitellum is absent and is incorporated into the ulna to form a single mass; there is a procurvatum of the radius and a frequent dislocation of the distal RU joint (73%). Type III: extensive synostosis (2.8%): the bone bridge is extended over most of the two bones of the forearm, involving the interosseous membrane [4]. The second paper proposed adapted levels of osteotomy to the type of the malformation [5].



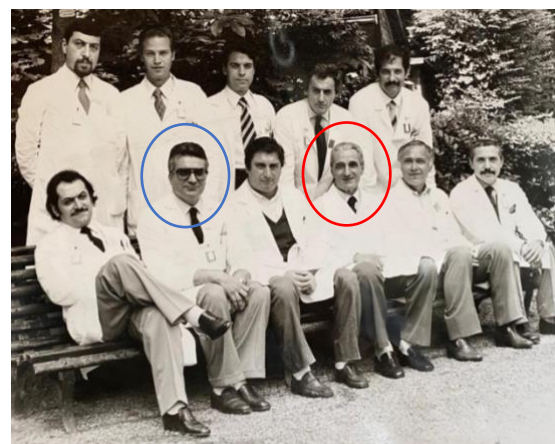
Hobbies: Alessandro Dal Monte was a good golfer and a ski enthusiast, skiing in Cortina d'Ampezzo where he had a house. He also loved reading. He was married to Mrs. Anna Pulga and had three daughters: Laura, Paola and Silvia.

Top 5 references

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5. Dal Monte A, Andrisano A, Bungaro P, Mignani G. Revisione critica del trattamento chirurgico della sinostosi congenita radio-ulnare prossimale. Ital J Orthop Traumatol. 1987; 13: 181-6.

References

- a. Andreacchio A, Canavese F, Farsetti P. The Italian School of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery: from the origins to present days. J Pediatr Orthop B. 2019; 28: 187-8.



Prof Dal Monte with his Rizzoli's team, Gabriele Soncini early 70's - Coll. Giovanni Trisolino

Thanks to Antonio Andreacchio, Federico Canavese, Giovanni Trisolino and Gabriele Soncini Pierre Lascombes – EPOS Historian