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Objective: History of the Bécère and Fuchs ISR Honors
*Let Zeus, my peers and you damn me if I'm betraying the truth.
Honor: never expect, never request, never refuse, never exhibit!*

Paris, 29 October 2011

Dear Professor Gourtsoyannis,

I was pleased to meet you on last Sunday at the JFRs2011 and to mention the trouble I have with the lack of content on the history of the Bécère and Fuchs Honors delivered by the ISR visible on its website.

My complain is justifiable and more easily understandable for those who know that I created those honors when I was member of the ISR ExCom and the Treasurer of the ISR (1994-2000) in order to clarify the use of the big donation Antoinette Bécère - Antoine's daughter - made to the ISR after she met with Walter Fuchs at ICR'73 in Madrid, Spain. My very old chap, Otha Linton, is fully aware of a story that is quite a novel in itself. I hope he accept to afford the true history of the large and fascinating episode covering a quarter of century he has lived with me all over the world. Since the historical content found in the ISR website is disappointing, my duty is to tell it in order to give you a genuine document possibly recordable in the ISR files.

Facts are facts. They have to be exhibited neutrally and objectively. I'm a true historian; I respect the truth and I wish I'm able to use a concise literary style. You'll find in that letter the history of the ISR from 1985 to 2000 since - save the period of time 1990-1993 - I was an active officer before and after ICR'89, a convention that congregated 20,000 registrants and was a key-event in the future of the weakened ISR after the ICR'85 mess in Honolulu. From 1985 to 1989, I was the President of the newly created ISR Radiodiagnostic Section because of the decision of the Radiation Oncology's split to be operational after ICR'89. The President of the ISR at that time was Professor Maurice Tubiana who actually acted from 1986 to 1994. In the second section, I'll describe how the honors were created during my second stage of my ISR participation (1994-2000).

1983 - 1994

Now, please, accept my apologies for a personal writing of the full story of ICR'89 that I lived as an actor since the beginning of the process. You may consider I'm exciting an excessive ego. But, let me state all what I'm going to expose in that letter is totally true. I have the required documents certifying my speech. Several individuals are still alive who were the actors and/or witnesses of all the processes I'm going to describe, e.g. Professor Henri Nahum, former Secretary General of the Société Française de Radiologie who decided to sign the French bid for ICR'89, Professor Jean-Michel Bigot and François Eschwège who were respectively ICR'89 Secretary General and President of the Radiation Oncology Section. Otha Linton is the only witness of the American venture apart from 1986 working under your Presidency of the ISR Board.

I'm the only genitor of the idea to the bid for ICR'89¹ in Paris. In the early 80ies, the French radiology had become mature and respectable but not truly recognized internationally as a whole. 1989 was a crucial year because of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution; I felt it was a good opportunity for the French radiology to combine an International Congress with the celebration of such an important event in the history of the universal humanity. During the 1983 wintertime, I wrote a letter to Henri Nahum expressing my argumentation. He was skeptical but he changed his mind after the success of the ECR'93. Four «musketeers» were elected to make the campaign: Michel Bellet, Jean-Michel Bigot, the radiotherapist François Eschwège and I; I was the only English-speaking radiodiagnostician. It took a full year before my colleagues understood the bid was winnable; I never doubted. Our project was trustworthy; our campaign was both intensive and extensive; since I'm Spanish-speaking too, I visited all South-American leaders² on their places; we never attacked our challengers on their bids; our technical file was professionally printed. We were in 1985 fortunate enough to win the bid at the first turn in Honolulu against India, Thailand and the UK.

ICR'85 was a disaster³ and the future of both the ISR and the ICR'89 had become negative because the American College of Radiology (ACR) didn't accept to afford its full responsibility. The ISR Secretary General-Treasurer, Walter Fuchs⁴, reacted hardly and that induced a severe crisis. I felt I was the only person able to solve it. Fuchs, deeply depressed at that time, went to Paris; a dozen of French officers listened to him at the Centre Antoine Bécélère. Since I was the President of the Radiodiagnostic Section of both the ISR and of the ICR'89, and because he was ready to do a fatal mistake, I urged him NOT to resign its prominent position at the ISR ExCom. So did he.

The French is supposed to be americanophobe and chauvinistic and arrogant. I'm not that caricature mostly because Patton's army delivered my native village in August 1944. As

1 I own one Henri Nahum's personal hand-written letter assessing my fatherhood of ICR'89. The wise reason why I refused the presidency of ICR'89 was correlated to my feeling of my lack of maturity combined with a heavy chairmanship of several departments and my rich activity in radiological clinical research. Maurice Tubiana was nominated unanimously in spite of his involvement in Radiation Oncology and a little interest in radiodiagnostics. He was an excellent President of both the ICR'89 and the ISR.

2 I acknowledge Professor Loureiro of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Professor Itazil dos Santos of Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, for their full active support to the bid and to ICR'89. The Latino-American delegates had the casting votes. Without them, the French couldn't win at the first turn.

3 Maurice Tubiana wrote a few «politically correct» pages on ICRs and ISR in his autobiography that do not reflect the reality of the events I lived during five years with him. (Maurice Tubiana. *N'oublions pas demain*. Editions De Fallois, Paris, 2007.).

4 Walter Fuchs's philosophy was oriented to developing countries; he supported a school of technologists in Kenya; he thought the ISR had to go to Asia and to India first. According to the former by-laws of the ISR, the President of an ICR was fully responsible of the congress; but, in 1981 in Brussels, the ACR bided and Robert Moseley was the president of the bid. The industry didn't want to have an ICR'85 in India while Walter Fuchs was supporting Sunderham Aggarwal and New Delhi. His angriness inflated because of the ICR'85 flop in Hawaii. Fuchs didn't support the French bid but he played a fair role after we have demonstrated our skills during the ACR-ISR «crisis». He was a rigid but honest and serious man I always respected.

an americanophile I couldn't accept the American radiology was losing its honor in a trivial argumentation. Since for thirty years I was a scientist lecturer all over the world I've many friends in American academics; I joined the active memberships of both the Society of Uroradiology in 1980 and of the Association of University Radiology in 1981. Step by step, mostly with Jean-Michel Bigot, I built the process of a partnership's renewal with the Americans. ICR'89 needed not only to be attractive to the American radiologists but, more importantly, to have the industrial support. An American boycott was not acceptable and we had to attract both the ARRS and the RSNA; the latter was a rather rough antagonist at that time since the American College of Radiology was closer to the first one.

In the early springtime 1986, Jean-Michel Bigot and I attended the ARRS meeting in Washington D.C. I'd a long intimate discussion with an outstanding friend of mine, Glen W. Hartman⁵, who told me what it happened exactly between Fuchs and the ACR. We met with the President of the ARRS, Raymond Gagliardi, and the Board; we got the active support of that society; later on, Robert N. Berk of the UCSD opened the «yellow journal» to the promotion of ICR'89 by editorials⁶; the latter will be the co-chairman and orator at the geriatric radiology session of the ICR program.

A few weeks later, in late spring 1986, my genius friend Milos Sovak invited me at the Biophysica Foundation, La Jolla, San Diego, for a brainstorming session on a new nonionic compound he had synthesized. I took that opportunity to contact my intimate and wise friend, John R Amberg of the UCSD. I told him the conflict involving the ISR and the ACR; I emphasized on the trouble I was. A soon meeting with the ACR officers was mandatory. I was looking for the best go-between because I knew nobody in that institution and I wanted to be recommended before the appointment was requested. We studied three major characters I knew enough to contact them: Alexander Margulis of the UCSF, M. Paul Capp of Tucson, and George Leopold of the UCSD⁷. We selected the latter because he was an ACR Board member as well as a good friend of mine since both of us have been sonographers. I had a business-breakfast in the following morning with George; he was convinced of the excellence of my goal enough to call immediately Joseph A Marasco Jr. of Pittsburgh who was the Secretary General-Treasurer of the ACR up. I got an appointment with him scheduled on a couple of days later. I flew to Pittsburgh just after the last minute of the brainstorming.

In the Holyday's Inn of Pittsburgh I first had a diner with John Curry, the executive director of the ACR, followed by a long discussion until midnight. Both of us had an excellent fit after we screened almost all topics dealing with the current status and ambitions⁸ of both French and American radiologies. In the next morning, I'd a crucial business-breakfast with Joseph A Marasco, John Curry, Otha Linton and I. After a 90-minute-discussion, my goal was caught since I was immediately in touch with the outgoing personalities of my interlocutors and conversely. Marasco invited me to attend in the next early fall the ACR Board Meeting⁹ in Baltimore, Maryland.

Since, according to the old by-laws, the ISR president was the president of the last ICR, Robert Moseley should have been the President of the ISR from 1985 to 1989. But, he was very sick

5 Glen W Hartman was an uroradiologist at the Mayo Clinic and a promising leader. He was a member of the ACR delegation to the ISR headed by Thomas Meaney with M. Paul Capp, Robert Hattery and George Leopold. He deceased unfortunately a few months after ICR'89.

6 JF Moreau. *International Congress of Radiology*. AJR, 1987, 149:208.

7 I was visiting professor at the UCSD Radiology Department in 1980 and 1985. I often visited my distinguished colleagues at that place. My special relationship with John R Amberg and Lee B Talner gave me numerous keys for an underground diplomacy.

8 I described my project of telemedicine; he advised me to keep it secret when I meet with Marasco!

9 I got in mid-August 1986 a formal invitation from the ACR. The only problem was a conflicting schedule between the ACR and the French Ultrasound meetings. This overlapping was solved when I got a free flight in the supersonic Concord offered by Air France that was the official carrier of ICR'89.

and he deceased soon after the Honolulu disaster. The radiation oncologist Luther W Brady who was the Secretary General of ICR'85 informed Maurice Tubiana; both of them decided that the latter had to promptly take over the Presidency of ISR. I had to get Tubiana's approval before I started my diplomatic trip. Then, my major concern was to understand the financial connection between the ISR and both ICRP and ICRU. I held a preliminary exclusive business weekend with Maurice Tubiana and Walter Fuchs at my intimate friend's home, Professor Thérèse Planiol, who owns a castle in a tiny place near the city of Tours. The wives were invited. The three of us defined the data enabling me to face the ACR strongholds with a heavier stuff. The first arrangement offered by Tubiana and Brady to the ACR was based upon the payment of dues (\$0.5 per ICR'85 registrants) to be deposited into the ISR bank account in Bern; I was not supportive of such a trivial compromise and Walter Fuchs validated my argument; I wanted a deep involvement of the triad ACR-RSNA-ARRS



in the participation in ICR'89, specially in the promotion of the congress. Let me remember you how risky it was to held a meeting in 1989 in a European place when all along the decade terrorists were extremely active, e.g. hi-jackings and the Lockerbie airplane crash in the fall 1988; that was a daily problem for us but, fortunately the mid-1989 was quiet.

I spent a couple of days with the Board of the ACR in Baltimore. I met with the Board of Chancellors and my pleading was well received since I put the honor of America before and much higher than the financial conflict¹⁰. The French staff of ICR'89 was perfectly correct at a moral viewpoint; the French participation in ICR'85 was numerous and scientifically significant; we didn't play any role in the current conflict meanwhile I kept my confidence in Fuchs' expertise and honesty. Moreover, I explained to the ACR chancellors that the Americans had lost the presidency of the ISR since they didn't offer another radiologist to take over after Moseley's death¹¹. Joseph Marasco will never forget that lesson! I don't think I met even briefly with Thomas F Meaney of the Cleveland Clinic: he had become Marasco's successor for a 3-year mandate of the ACR Secretary-general-Treasurership; Joseph Marasco then had become the ACR President for one year. I left Baltimore with the pleasant feeling my performance was satisfactory and convincing. The next appointment with the ACR was scheduled at the next RSNA meeting.

Jean-Michel Bigot and I had to manage a huge business agenda at the RSNA'86 held in the two buildings of the McCormick Center of Chicago. It was difficult to convince the industry to invest a lot in ICR'89. At the beginning, George Schuyler¹² who was the big chief of the RSNA meetings and who will become a good friend of mine was not interested in ICR'89; he like the scientific board the RSNA wanted their RSNAs to be the only annual international radiology convention. ICR'89 after the ICR'85 mess was peanut for them. However, when we made a deeper prospect in Schuyler's mind, he was concerned by the support we got from the ACR and the ARRS.

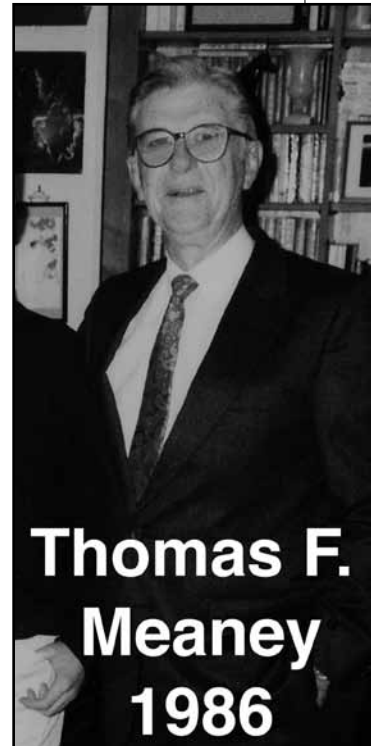
10 «Well done!» George Leopold told me after my speech.

11 Maurice Tubiana and Luther Brady used the procedure of the so-called «fait accompli» handsomely.

12 George Schuyler was the ICR'85 Director of the Technical Exhibition too.

In fine, we got his respect then his confidence and he provided some advices. That will be very useful during the next RSNA meetings.

But, at RSNA'86, our goal was to feature a formal moral contract with the new ACR Secretary-General, Thomas Meaney. During several days, Bigot and I had the feeling the ACR was no more eager to discuss with us. Was he suspecting some dissociation or discrepancy between both teams Moreau-Fuchs and Tubiana-Brady? By chance the day before the closure of the meeting, I met with Joseph Marasco who was sitting alone in a chair at the almost empty ACR booth. He looked uncomfortable to me. After some preliminary sentences of a drama mimicking a fencing challenge, he confirmed the esteem he had on the ICR'89 management and its representatives at the RSNA, but he «no more had the power»; I insisted and finally he expressed he still had «an influence». Then I could get an appointment with Thomas Meaney at the booth of the State Department nicely managed by the charming Ms Brady. Meaney gave me two appointments, one in Paris where he visited me at home after an MR meeting in Germany, then in Lisbon, Portugal, during ECR'87. He couldn't participate in the ISR ExCom held at the beginning of ECR but he mandated an observer. I understood Meaney was still procrastinating. He surrendered when I visited him in the summertime with my son at his farm located close to the Lake Erie in the State of New York. Apart from now, he would be the most reliable American partner of ICR'89.



For our staff, the major appointments in the years 1987 and 1988 were the RSNA meetings. George Schuyler¹³ installed a booth for the ICR'89's delegates in a walking path in between the technical exhibition and the scientific area. Thousands of people passed along the booth and plenty of them stopped. The young American Association for Women Radiologists occupied a booth aside us; our female colleagues took advantage of our vicinity for their promotion; this is an opportunity to mention the names of Gretchen Gooding, Helen Redman, Sandra Fernbach among the women who were supportive of ICR'89.

In the early fall 1987, Maurice Tubiana, Jean-Michel Bigot, Michel Bellet and I participated in the Asian-Australasian Congress of Radiology chaired by Professor Man Chung Han of Seoul, Korea. We needed to know more on the Asian radiology. We didn't know but a few persons, such as Lenny Tan¹⁴ of Singapore, Sundersham Aggarwal of India, Tokuro Nobechi of the St Lukes Hospital of Tokyo, Japan. One should not forget the underground diplomatic role played by Geoffrey T Benness of Sydney; he was the Australian international leader at that time and an early good friend of mine too.

But, from 1985 to 1989, my strongest Asian supporter was Tokuro Nobechi. He was an earnestly active member of the ISR ExCom during my mandate; he appreciated positively my diplomacy with the ACR; he trusted in the success of ICR'89. Both of us together decided to take the opportunity of the combined meeting of the Society of radiology of Japan and the J.M.C.P. to be held in 1988 in Tokyo to enhance our relationship and to accurate a larger participation of the Asians in both the scientific program and the technical exhibition. We still had a lot of unsold square meters! Ms Martine Jeannet, deputy manager, Dr Jacques Trotot and I flew first to Singapore

13 We invited George Schuyler to visit us in Paris a few months before the opening of ICR at the Parc des expositions de la Porte de Versailles; he was impressed by our task force. He attended ICR'89 and, taking into consideration its success, he said to me: «You've done the most difficult! Now, you've just to do it again!»

14 Lenny Tan was invited in Paris in the early spring 1985; he advised us before we won the bid in order to understand what the chances of New Delhi and Bangkok could be. Walter Fuchs wasn't supportive of the European and Thai bids because he was at the origin of the Indian one. Just before the vote electing Paris, I played golf with Sundersham Aggarwal, a perfect gentleman who was sure he will win; I was sad when I felt the distress of the smart Indian delegation leaving the ballroom where the vote occurred.

then to Tokyo. That happened in Easter when the cheery trees are blooming up; unfortunately the weather was cold and rainy. But, the meeting was worthwhile and our commitment was successful. I met several Asian leaders there.

I had bought a discounted around-the-world ticket. I took the opportunity of that trip to visit all leaders of the Asian area except Bangkok because I was invited to participate in the Asian meeting in the next fall there. My goal was to convince the Asians to work within the new ISR after ICR. I first flew to Manila, Philippines. Then I stayed a couple of days in Hong Kong where Professor Lillian Leong invited me to give my favorite lecture in ultrasonography of the neck at the Hong Kong College of Radiology. Similarly I did in Taipei, Taiwan, where I received a warm welcome from Professor Chen at the VA Hospital. In both places, after my lecture, the doctors requested from my courtesy some lessons of practical examinations of the neck of a few patients. So did I with pleasure because I'm fond of ultrasonography, a technology well adapted to every kinds of medical audience everywhere. My last step was in Seoul; I was interested in the character of Man Chung Han and I was wishing he joined the next ISR ExCom. Then, I flew back to Paris after some subsidiary stops in California, in Houston and in New York City.

In the early year 1989, unless there was a catastrophe inhibiting visitors aiming to travel by air or in an unsafe country, we felt ICR'89 should be successful. The future of the ISR was upsetting me because I had to take a painful decision: not to get into a position in the new pattern of an ISR fully dedicated to diagnostic radiology without the radiation oncologists. I was aware of the desire of several influent leaders, specially the Asians, I remain an active officer of the ISR. But, since October 1st, 1988, I was heading a new revolutionary department of radiology to be opened just on July 1st, 1989, at the Hospital Necker, in order to be visited by the ICR attendees. I couldn't manage three intensive lives - managing and scientific and international jobs - in the mean time; moreover I was rather exhausted after six years of continuous stress and trips!

In the early springtime 89, Walter Fuchs invited me in Zurich for a dinner with the British president of the ISR Radiation Oncology Section, the British Professor Norman Bleehen, and another guest. He was ready to support my bid to a position of Secretary-General if I was willing to succeed him; he had perhaps in mind to become the president of the new purely diagnostic ISR. The Shakespearian question for a careerist would have been: to be or not to be with or without Maurice Tubiana? Normally I should be the President of the ISR but I knew Tubiana was eager to keep going in the position and I was bothering him. I visited José Bonmatí in Madrid (I speak Spanish fluently); he was neutral but hostile to a persisting Radiation Oncology Section I was ready to present during the ISR General Assembly.

ICR'89 was an unexpected immense success: 20,000 registrants at that time represented a crowd that the RSNA meeting only was surpassing since it was held at the McCormick Center renewed after 1980. I presented my report at the General Assembly. My amendment was rejected. I followed my wisdom and said good-bye farewell after I introduced the bid of Singapore for the next ICR unsuccessfully challenged by a Dutch one and a Thai one. Maurice Tubiana took over and presided the new ISR. Unfortunately, likely because he was sometimes sick, he couldn't help Lenny Tan enough when the socio-economical crisis followed the Gulf War; I visited Singapore at that nasty time and I could understand Lenny Tan's pain. I was honored by the ACR with an Honorary Fellowship I received in Nashville, Kentucky in September 1990.

Last but not least, by 1987, controversies were developing in Europe because of the RSNA monopoly having become the «international» convention where all radiologists of all over the world aimed to attend. The UK failed the opportunity to fix ECRs in Birmingham when their bid for ICR'89 was rejected in Honolulu. Pushed over by the European industry, the German radiology headed by Joseph Lissner of Munich was eager to have a new English-speaking European Congress of Radiology in a no industrialized German-speaking country, for instance Vienna, Austria. George

Schuyler didn't understand why the French gave up the idea to have it in France since GE bought the French CGR. The Dutch failed to get ICR'92 that was postponed to 1994. I tried to give my best to support the newborn ECR in Vienna. My team and I faithfully participated in all ECRs since the first one until 2000.

In 1990, I had become a Founder member and the President-Elect of the European Society of Uroradiology (ESUR). In 1991 I participated in the first panel of lecturers invited by Ludovico Dalla Palma, Director of the Halley Project, to teach the radiologists belonging to the Eastern Europe countries. In 1993, I had become the Honorary Treasurer of the European Federation of Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology¹⁵ (EFSUMB) for three years. Elliott Lasser of UC San Diego and I were the godfathers of the biennial Contrast Media Symposia (CMR). I joined again the ISR ExCom in 1994 in Singapore.

This is the end of that story running from 1983 to 1994. In the second part dedicated to the years 1994-2011, I aim to clarify the creation of the ISR honors linked with the need to enhance the memory of the French pioneer of medical radiology, Antoine Béchère, and her daughter, Antoinette, founder of the Centre Antoine Béchère that was the ICR'89 headquarter and the generous donator to the ISR.

1994 - 2000

Foreword #1: Antoine and Antoinette Béchère

DR ANTOINE BÉCLÈRE (1856-1939), a virologist and an immunologist who no later than 1896 discovered the medical interest of the X-rays, is the godfather of the French radiology performed by medical doctors. He opened no later than 1898 the first French teaching program at the Hospitals Tenon and Saint-Antoine of Paris. He was the secretary of the first international congress of radiology held in Paris during the famous 1900 Exposition Universelle; the president was the famous Dr Charles Bouchard of the Hospital de la Charité of Paris who was the editor of the three volumes of the first French radiology treatise published in 1903. Two new words still used nowadays were adopted worldwide during that congress: radiology and radiographer. In 1931 he presided both the 3rd International Congress of Radiology in Paris and the International Society of Radiology for a 4-year-mandate. With the British Thurstan Holland, the Suede Gösta Førsell and the Swiss Arthur Schintz, Antoine Béchère participated in the creation of the International Society of Radiology in 1913; however because of World War One, the ISR radiance started in 1927 in Stockholm when the X-rays damages induced the creation of the International Commission of Radiation Protection during the 2nd International Congress of Radiology presided by Gösta Førsell. Because Antoine Béchère was both a radioscopist and a radiotherapist, his left hand soon had become radionecrotic.



Antoine Béchère¹⁶ survived by his two children, **CLAUDE BÉCLÈRE** who was a gynecologist

15 I mentored Dr Gyorgy Harmatt of Budapest, Hungary, who was the President of the EFSUMB'96 meeting.

16 The Hospital Antoine Béchère of Clamart belonging to the administration of the Assistance Publique-Hôpi-

and ANTOINETTE BÉCLÈRE who was his secretary¹⁷. Both of them didn't have children or relatives. They invested their fortunes in a non-profit foundation, the CENTRE ANTOINE BÉCLÈRE of Paris, **fundamentally dedicated to the international relationships in radiology**. The annual MÉDAILLE DU CENTRE ANTOINE BÉCLÈRE created in 1952 is the oldest and the most prestigious award delivered by the French radiology to outstanding personalities from all over the world. After the opening of the Centre a few Parisian radiologists made an exhaustive bibliographic catalogue recollecting the contents of the international literature available after 1950. In 1973, Antoinette wrote her father's biography¹⁸ in the French and English languages. She opened a booth at the International Congress of Radiology held in Madrid where she met with the new ISR Secretary-General, Walter Fuchs of Bern, Switzerland; she was impressed even seduced by both the smartness and the noble ambition of Schintz's successor.

Foreword #2: Antoinette Béclère and I (1967-1980)

I started my residency program in internal medicine and radiology in April 1967 in the department of radiology of the Hospital Cochin of Paris whose chairman was Professor Guy Ledoux-Lebard. He was a former pupil of Antoine Béclère and an intimate friend of Antoinette Béclère. I wrote my first paper with him; I studied the bibliography at the Centre Antoine Béclère where I got a warm welcome from Antoinette Béclère and Ms Vieillard-Baron, widow of a radiological pioneer; she was used to offer a cup of tea and biscuits. All along my residentship and my assistant professorship I was used to look for bibliographic references there. When I got tenure in 1975 with an associate professorship at the Hospital Necker of Paris, my chairman Professor Jean-René Michel, who had become the Secretary-General of the Centre for three years, delegated me to the Centre Antoine Béclère. I was used to go and work once a week with Antoinette Béclère; she was talkative, her memory was safe, and I quickly learnt from her almost all I had to know to be performing in international affairs and in the radiological history. Moreover, she was honest and her opinion was objective provided that nobody argues against the superlative character of her matchless father¹⁹. If I didn't have the Antoinette's mentoring, I couldn't have the idea of an ICR in Paris; I couldn't shape the international promotion of such a bid for an unstoppable success in Honolulu either.

The last time I met with Antoinette was in 1980 before I started my Visiting Professorship at the UCSD. I offered my booklet on «Urographie intraveineuse». She wasn't in good health anymore. Out of several confidences she expressed one has to be emphasized. **She told me once again her admiration for Walter Fuchs and the decision she was taking to donate a huge amount of money to the ISR²⁰ out of any control from the French radiology**. I'll never forget that confidence. Walter Fuchs told me the story as well and his amazement when he endorsed the check. I own a letter from Jean-René Michel confirming that donation and its motivation.

Back to the ISR ExCOM.

I was more than happy in January 1994 to participate scientifically with some pupils of mine in ICR'94 in Singapore. I was the chief of the French delegation at the General Assembly of the ISR. Sponsored by the Treasurer Joseph Marasco, I was co-opted as a councilor by the Executive Committee newly presided by Lenny Tan. I brought to that new Board my international expertise I

taux de Paris was founded in 1970. A stamp and a place of the city of Paris honor his name.

17 Antoinette Béclère edited the proceedings of ICR'31 of Paris published in French, English and German.

18 Antoinette Béclère. Antoine Béclère. J.B. Baillères éd., Paris, 1973.

19 She was more respectful of the foreign radiology than that of her native country; she rather contempt the Parisian radiologists stated to be lazy compared with the former ones who worked with her somewhat workaholic father; I agreed with her since the French radiology lost her competitiveness after World War II save both schools of pediatric radiology chaired by Jacques Lefebvre and of neuradiology chaired by Herman Fishgold; the renewal started in the 70ies when the academic radiologists had become full-time like in the UCSF Margulis's department. She felt Walter Fuchs was her father's clone.

20 I never knew the actual amount of obsolete French francs but it might be changed in almost 250,000 euros.

shared with my friends George Klempfner of Melbourne, Australia, and Ludovico Dalla Palma of Trieste, Italy. I met for the first time with Carl-Gustaf Standerstam-Nordenström of Helsinki who was both Secretary-General of the ISR and an administrator of the Centre Antoine Béchère. Otha Linton who had become the Executive Director of the ISR was standing up aside Joseph Marasco who himself had become the obvious leader of the post-Tubiana era. The major decision taken by the General Assembly was to hold in 1996 an ICR in Beijing, China. A sad event happened with the death of President-Elect Joachim Burhenne of Vancouver, Canada, who was the sponsor of that adventurous initiative solicited by the industry²¹. Another Canadian, Derek Harwood-Nash of Toronto, succeeded him in the position of President-Elect. Walter Fuchs died soon after ICR'94 too. Then I'd become the only «memory» of the history of the ISR!

The future of the ISR treasure was being discussed with some controversies. Marasco was eager to translate the administration of the ISR including the bank accounts to the USA in a room offered by the American College of Radiology. Although that was painful for the Europeans, the decision was taken unanimously. But, since the ExCom didn't know the history of the ISR, the officers didn't know what to do with the Antoinette Béchère Fund! Did the money had to go back to the Centre Antoine Béchère like Maurice Tubiana²² had wished? Marasco had another but unclear vision because he hadn't digested the former «dues conflict» dated on 1985! An American cannot resist picking the dime when a coin is on the table. By the way, I couldn't accept that the Fund could be used for a trivial project. I took an initiative that gained the unanimity: I invited the ExCom to be the ISR partner in a focused discussion with the officers of the Centre Antoine Béchère during an exclusive meeting at the Centre Antoine Béchère itself. The appointment was taken I don't remember when exactly in mid-1994. The Secretary-General of the Centre, Dr Jean-Victor Raust, was the interlocutor nominated by President Maurice Tubiana who couldn't participate. I told the story of the Antoinette Béchère's donation and the lack of legitimacy of a French complain; Dr Raust who daily assisted Antoinette until her death date accepted the validity of my speech. But, the ISR ExCom had to take into consideration the specificity of the Fund respecting the wish of Antoinette Béchère when she donated the money for noble causes: the money couldn't be used for the current administration of the ISR, specially to pay Otha Linton's salary or the officers' trip. **Then I proposed to honor the memory of the Béchère Family by the creation of a strong sign of acknowledgement. The annual interests of the principal should be used to subsidize a new international honor named the ANTOINE BÉCHÈRE MEDAL and the ANTOINE BÉCHÈRE LECTURE; both of them should be given biennially during the International Congresses of Radiology. If the money was eventually bigger, I proposed also a FUCHS LECTURE, in order to acknowledge the role played by Antoinette's partner.** The ExCom adopted the three awards; I chaired the first committee who selected Gerald Hanson and Phillip Palmer; they received their awards in Beijing during ICR'96; Maurice Tubiana gave the Fuchs Lecture. Within a 14-year-period of time thirty-three outstanding international leaders were awarded with those honors²³.



21 I'd like to acknowledge the adequacy of a non-corruptible partnership between both scientific societies and the industry; mostly the Germans are fond of such ventures that have generated ECRs and ICRs. In 1985, in Hawaii, I featured a new pattern of partnership between scientists and the contrast media industry at the origin of the CMR symposia inspired by the so-called «spirit of Montbazou» after the success of the CMR'87 in that city of France.

22 Because Maurice Tubiana who was President of the Centre Antoine Béchère as well was sick at that time he couldn't attend the General Assembly and give his presidential report by himself. The ISR officers were upset by a possible law-suit initiated by the Centre Antoine Béchère.

23 George Klempfner of the ISR ExCom awarded Mrs Christau inheritant of Mrs Vieillard-Baron with an extra Antoine Béchère Medal. They received it on October 23rd, 2002 at my office at the Hospital Necker (fig.).



Another concern was obsessing me. It was dealing with the new shape of the ICRs. They were supposed to be a kind of a post-graduate course without any scientific program. Now, I couldn't accept the ISR to be the sponsoring moral person of so-called "boon-doggles" to be held in a paradise island for selected happy fews. A new terrible event saddened the Board of the ISR, less than one year after his nomination, Derek Harwood-Nash died suddenly. The Board met in 1995 in Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia, during the A.O.C.R meeting chaired by Dr Kulavisaralingham. I had become the Treasurer after Joseph Marasco had become President-Elect. I wasn't happy with the project featured in a rush after Derek's death by Lenny Tan. I didn't react against the only post-graduate course he gave to Anne Osborn; that was the CT-scanner course she chaired at the Allied Forces Institute of Radiology, Washington D.C.; its success was huge. But, an ICR must be international with an international faculty. The ExCom gave me the full responsibility of an international program to be negotiated with the president of ICR'96, Professor Dai Jianping. The latter wasn't enthusiastic at all when I met him in Kuala-Lumpur. I decided to reach immediately Beijing using the flight of the Chinese delegation²⁴. Then I could participate in the Chinese Congress of Radiology where I met with Anne Osborn and the Chinese leaders. When one takes into account that none of the ISR officers save Lenny Tan knew something on the Chinese radiology, I can state that ICR'96 was a tremendous success. I was pleased to participate in ICR'98 in New Delhi; my friend Sunderham Aggarwal after two decades of efforts was gratified by an ICR with an excellent program chaired by Munkund Joshi, a radiopaediatrician who should remain in the ISR files as the most respected Indian radiologist. Even still weak, the ISR was on the good way to provide a fruitful linkage between the Western World and the developing countries of the other continents. In Beijing, the ISR ExCom decided that the French seat was occupied by my friend Claude Manelfe of Toulouse meanwhile I remained an active Treasurer²⁵ until I stopped my international scientific and diplomatic life in 2000, in Buenos Aires²⁶. I'll never forget the happiness I felt when I received the Antoine Béchère Medal with my «pupil» Lenny Tan and my friend Ludovico Dalla Palma there.

Conclusion

I'm ending a letter recalling a piece of the international history of our discipline with emotion. In the early 90ies, I decided to give the French society of ultrasound (SFAUM) an international politics including The People's Republic of China. I was urged to boycott its meetings by some respectable people anxious because of the non-respect of the human rights in that country. In 1990, I consulted my friend Tokuro Nobeche in Tokyo; he understood my trouble; he gave me some information on the Asian history balancing the Western intellectuals' procrastination facing the Chinas, the Koreas, Burma, and Indochina... He concluded our discussion by an incitation to

24 I wrote the story of that adventure in French; it can be downloaded at <http://www.jfma.fr/index.php?p=memoires>

25 I visited the ISR office in 2000 in Bethesda before I introduced my financial report at the General Assembly based upon the data supplied by Otha Linton. I would say «The ISR show must go on!».

26 I gave my last scientific lecture in Buenos Aires at ICR'2000; the topic was: «US functional imaging».

go and work with the Chinese using my soul and my heart as guidance. So did I successfully, at AFSUMB'95, first, then at ICR'96. In the fall 1995, I was in Hong Kong when Lillian Leong chaired an international symposium of the Hong Kong College of Radiology celebrating the centennial of Roentgen's discovery. I always respected that tough lady who had to keep safe her autonomy after the so-called «restitution» in 1997. On last Sunday October 23rd, 2011, Professor Dai Jianping received the 77th Médaille du Centre Antoine Bécclère from my hands. I said in my speech: «Sixteen years ago in Beijing, I met with a doctor, a radiologist, and a human as well...» I don't regret anything of what I did during the last quarter of the last century internationally. She was true the lady of New Zealand who was a hostess in an Australian remote place when she told me: «What I've learnt from that job is that there is no life that is not interesting.»

I was happy to meet you, Professor Gourtsoyannis, in Paris in the mean time. I thank you for that incitation to write that letter to you but you might expect a shorter letter with less promotion of my ego. I apologize for such an excessive number of I and my. I'm an historian, nothing else. This is not my fault if that is mixing it up with an autobiography. However, I'd like you to understand how frustrated I am when I've a look at the ISR website or when I listened to both of the Antoine Bécclère Medalist and Lecturer at ICR'2008 in Marrakech where I've was invited by my dear pupil and President, Professor Farida Imani of Rabat, Morocco. None of them told the ignorant audience who was Antoine Bécclère and why the honor was granted by a generous and idealist woman, daughter of an illustrious father. If the tell of the story is perpetuated, then, please, let you and the ISR forget me forever. I thank you very much in advance.

Warmest regards,

Médailles Antoine Bécclère Centre Antoine Bécclère - Paris

1952 - Georges E. PFAHLER - USA	1979 - Sir Edward POCHIN - UK
1953 - Herman HOLTHUSEN - All	1980 - Lucio DI GUGLIELMO - Italie
1954 - Edouard RIST - France	30 ^{ème} anniversaire du Centre Antoine Bécclère.
1955 - Elis BERVEN - Suède	1981 - Juan A. del REGATO - USA
1956 - Mario PONZIO - Italie	- Frédéric N. SILVERMAN - USA
- Georges MAINGOT - France	1982 - Jean PAPILLON - France
- Georges MASSIOT - France	1983 - Sydney WALLACE - USA
- M.F. MADRAZO [President Ville Congrès Int] - Mexique	1984 - Jerzy EINHORN - Suède
1957 - Russel REYNOLDS - USA	1985 - Jacques SAUVEGRAIN - Fr
1958 - Konrad WEISS - Allemagne	1986 - Anatole ABRAGAM - France
1959 - André DARIAUX - France	1987 - Eberhard ZEITLER - All
- Hans MEYER - Allemagne	1988 - Peter MANSFIELD - UK
1960 - James T. CASE - USA	1989 - 17 ^e congrès international de radiologie à Paris - ICR'89
1961 - André STROHL - France	[1-8 juillet 1989]
1962 - Hans R. SCHINZ - Suisse	- José BONMATI - Espagne
1963 - René GAUDUCHEAU - Fr	- Jean DUTREIX - France
- Boris RAJEWSKY - All	- Tomizo KATO - Japon
1964 - Léon BINET - France	- Luis O. MARTINEZ (Colegio Interamericano de radiología)
- Benjamin H. ORNDORF - USA	- Thomas F. MEANEY - USA
1965 - Alessandro VALLEBONA - It	1990 - Philips RUBIN - USA
1966 - Oscar SOTO - Pérou	1991 - Josef LISSNER - Allemagne
1967 - Carlos GIL Y GIL - Espagne	1992 - Annick PINET - France
1968 - Robert T. COLIEZ - France	1993 - Andrée DUTREIX - France
1969 - GB. ZIESES des PLANTES - PB	1994 - Guy PALLARDY - France
1970 - DEUTSCHE RÖNTGENGESELLSCHAFT - [75 ^e anniversaire de la découverte de Roentgen]. Allemagne.	1995 - Bernard PIERQUIN - France
1971 - Aleu SALDANHA - Portugal	1996 - Guy DELOREME - France
- La FONDATION CURIE 50 ^{ème} anniversaire - France	- Thérèse PLANIOL - France
1972 - Lucien MALLET - France	1997 - James COX - USA
- L'ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE A PARIS. [75 ^{ème} anniversaire du premier enseignement de la radiologie par Antoine Bécclère à l'hôpital Tenon] - France	1998 - Louis JEANMART - Belgique
1973 - J. IOVIN - Roumanie	1999 - Albrecht M. KELLERER - All
- ÖSTERREICHISCHE RÖNTGENGESELLSCHAFT (centenaire de Guido HOLZKNECHT) - Autriche.	2000 - Jacques REMY - France
1974 - Manuel VIAMONTE jr - USA	2001 - Lars-Eric HOLM - Suède
1975 - Gilbert H. FLETCHER - USA	2002 - Roland MASSE - France
1976 - Olle OLSSON - Suède	2003 - Harry BARTELINK - PB
1977 - Vera PETERS - Canada	2004 - Clément FAURÉ - France
1978 - Alexander MARGULIS - USA	- Francis WEILL - France
- Charles PROUX - France	2005 - Rolf W. GUNTHER - All
	2006 - Claude KELLERSHOHN - Fr
	2007 - Maurice TUBIANA - France
	2008 - Henri NAHUM - France
	2009 -
	2010 - Pierre SCHNYDER - Suisse
	2011 - DAI Jianping - RP Chine
	LIU Tai Fu - RP Chine

Médaille Antoine Bécclère 2011 Prof.-Dr. DAI Jianping Beijing, RP de Chine



Le Président,
Prof. François Eschwège

Le Secrétaire Général,
Dr. Jean-Victor Raust

Le Trésorier,
Prof. Michel Bléry

Remise de la Médaille Antoine Bécclère le 23 octobre 2011, lors des JRFs 2011, des mains du Prof. Jean-François Moreau.

Centre Antoine Bécclère

des relations internationales en radiologie médicale

Le Centre Antoine Bécclère, association sans but lucratif, a été créé par Claude et Antoinette Bécclère en mémoire de leur père pour entretenir le rayonnement international imprimé à la Radiologie.

The non-profitable association Centre Antoine Bécclère was founded by Claude and Antoinette Bécclère, in memory of their father for maintaining the international radiance of Radiology.





*The International Society of Radiology
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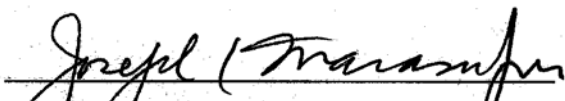
Jean Francois Moreau, M.D.

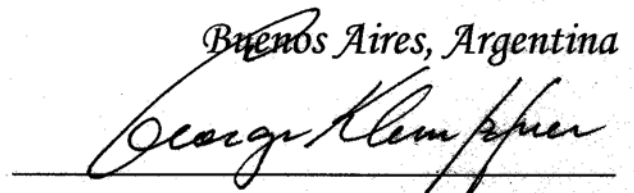
*to the advancement of international radiology
by awarding him its highest honor*

The Bécclère Medal

*Presented at the 21st International
Congress of Radiology*

4 September 2000


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President

Buenos Aires, Argentina

George Klemfner, M.D.
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