

In Memoriam:

Dr. Burstone's Lecture in Croatia in 2005

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I met Dr. Burstone in April 2005. He was lecturing mechanics at the first ortho course I organized in my newly founded company. I knew he was a master of mechanics in orthodontics and inventor of many orthodontic devices and therapeutic innovations. My first impression was more than positive. He was warm and friendly, very easy to make human contact with. The course was held in a beautiful summer resort on the northern Adriatic coast of Croatia and from the beginning there was a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere among the participants, most of which was on account of Dr Burstone's immediacy. But I was very worried because it was the beginning of my private business and my budget was very tight. The course was attended by only 29 participants. There would have been a lot more but, on behalf of some extremely negative propaganda motivated by personal interests of some people from our ortho official structures at the time, there were only 29 participants. Dr. Burstone did not fail to see my concerns. When the course ended, he asked me

whether I was happy with the comments of the participants. The comments were wonderful, the course was impressive. Dr. Burstone unselfishly shared his knowledge and experience.

I told him how everyone was delighted and that prof. Dr. Legović, head of orthodontics at the University of Rijeka, said that this was the best course he ever attended. Professor Legović was close to 60 years of age and, in his career, attended many courses at home and abroad. Dr. Burstone was pleased, he smiled contentedly. Later during our dinner he asked me again if I was carrying some burden on my chest in any way connected to the course he gave. I decided to tell him the truth. He briefly fell silent and then looked at me with his kind eyes and said, I understand your concern but from now on there is no place to worry because I give up my honorarium. Make it my contribution to your young company and to the benefit of Croatian Orthodontics. I looked at him in disbelief. He just laughed at my expression. I will never forget his generosity. Dr. Burstone was, at the time, 79 years old but the look on his face was boyish and innocent. My company has survived all the problems with our malignant surroundings. Today I'm a veteran in my business. When I heard ten years later that Dr. Burstone died in the middle of his lecture, the first thing I thought was that he just wanted it to be that way. Because only great and noble people die in the way they want. He joined the angels where he belonged due to his gentle and noble spirit.



■ **Fig. 1:**

Dr. Burstone (left) lectured in Croatia in 2005. He took a photo with Slavica Alpeza Stanicic (right).

