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SWISS DENTAL JOURNAL SSO 129:  
1018–1025 (2019)  
Accepted for publication:  
15 May 2019

\* According to the catalog of  
the *National Library of Medi-  
cine* the publication organ  
of the *Swiss Dental Associa-  
tion (SSO)* appeared under  
three names: *Schweizerische  
Monatsschrift für Zahnheil-  
kunde* (Schweiz Monatsschr  
Zahnheilkd) until 1983;  
*Schweizerische Monatsschrift  
für Zahnmedizin* (Schweiz  
Monatsschr Zahnmed) until  
2013, and *SWISS DENTAL  
JOURNAL SSO* (Swiss Dent J)  
until today.

## André Schroeder (1918–2004) – Groundbreaking Pioneer in Swiss Academic Dentistry

On the occasion of the anniversary of the long-standing Editor  
of the “*Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde*”\*

#### KEYWORDS

André Schroeder  
Swiss Dentistry  
History of Dentistry  
University of Bern  
Dental Profession

#### SUMMARY

The career of André Schroeder (1918–2004),  
Professor of Operative Dentistry and Endodontics  
at the University of Bern, and long-term Editor  
in Chief of the *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für  
Zahnheilkunde* (predecessor of the *SWISS DENTAL  
JOURNAL SSO*), is unique in many respects. Forty  
years ago, in 1979, Schroeder reached the zenith  
of his career when he was elected President  
(*Rector*) of the University of Bern – thereby  
becoming the first dentist in Swiss academic  
history to hold this office. Previously, Schroeder  
had also been the first dentist to become Full  
Professor (*Ordinarius*) and, later, Dean of the  
Medical Faculty. At the same time, Schroeder  
founded the International Team of Implantology  
(ITI), which evolved into the largest global organi-  
zation of Implant Dentistry.

The present article uses these anniversaries as  
an opportunity to (1) retrace Schroeder’s career  
path, (2) contextualize this career path using  
the education policy in place at the time, and

(3) clarify to what extent and by which means  
the pioneer Schroeder influenced the profession-  
alization of Academic Dentistry in Switzerland.  
This study draws upon primary sources from  
the University and City Archives of Bern and the  
archive of the ITI; these were supplemented by  
relevant secondary literature.

An evaluation of the sources clearly shows that  
Schroeder was a trailblazer in many ways: Firstly,  
he exploited his university positions with the  
primary goal of furthering the basis of Academic  
Dentistry. Secondly, he promoted Swiss Dentistry  
through his non-university activities – as the  
successful Editor of the *Schweizerische Monats-  
schrift für Zahnheilkunde* and founder of the ITI.  
And thirdly, Schroeder specifically addressed the  
increasing relevance of Dentistry for society as  
a whole by intertwining the two most important  
arguments – the scientific orientation and the  
benefits for public health – in a rhetorically  
accomplished manner.

## Introduction

André Schroeder (1918–2004) (Fig. 1) unquestionably belongs to the most influential figures in post-war Swiss Dentistry (BOSCHUNG 2011; BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; BUSER & HOTZ 2004; BUSER 2005; CLAUSEN 2018; EHRMANN 2004; LANEY 1993; LANG 2004). Exactly forty years ago, Schroeder became the first dentist to be elected President (*Rector*) of a Swiss University, although he had already made Swiss medical history when he became the first dentist to be appointed as Full Professor (1967) and Dean of a Medical Faculty (1971) (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; BUSER & HOTZ 2004). Schroeder, who obtained his dental degree in 1944 and subsequently played a decisive role in the establishment of Endodontics and Implant Dentistry as scientific fields at the *Zahnmedizinische Kliniken* or ZMK (dental clinics) in Bern, served as Editor in Chief of the *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* (predecessor of the *SWISS DENTAL JOURNAL SSO*) for ten years (1965–1975) (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005), initiated the founding of the *International Team of Implantology* (ITI) in 1980 and was president of this organization for many years. Owing to Schroeder's research initiatives and personal charisma, the ITI went on to become one of the world's leading associations for Implant Dentistry (GROSS 2020; WIDMER 1996).

The present article uses these anniversaries as an opportunity to (1) retrace Schroeder's career path and (2) relate this career path with the education policy in place at the time. The overall objective is to (3) clarify the extent to which Schroeder influenced the professionalization of Academic Dentistry in Switzerland and the means he used for this purpose.

## Materials and methods

This study drew upon primary sources, which address Schroeder's most important academic positions, from the *Universitätsarchiv Bern* or UAB (University Archive Bern), the *Stadtarchiv Bern* or SAB (City Archive Bern) and the archive of the ITI or AITI (Basel), all of which have received little attention to date. These primary sources were compared and supplemented with relevant secondary literature (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005 [WITH PUBLICATION LIST]; BICKEL 1984; BUSER & HOTZ 2004; BUSER 2005; BOSCHUNG 2014; CLAUSEN 2018; EHRMANN 2004; GEERING 2005; GREENBERG 2015; GROSS 2020; HOTZ 2005, 2010; LANEY 1993; LANG 2004; RAABE 2018).

## Results

### Career development and first research successes at the *Zahnärztliches Institut Basel* (1938–1958)

André Schroeder (Fig. 1) was born on 22 April 1918 in Basel, as the son of the chemist and pharmacist Dr. Karl August Schroeder-Baer (1878–1957) and his wife Camille Adile Louise Baer (1881–1952). Schroeder was the fourth of six siblings and grew up in a sheltered environment; his father founded a small chemical factory named “CIS” in Liestal (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005).

When Schroeder enrolled at the University of Basel in 1938, initially for medical studies (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005), the dental program had been granted full official academic status only one year earlier. Previously, the *Zahnärztliches Institut Basel* had been affiliated with the Medical Faculty, but did not have the status of a University Institute (LAMBRECHT 2010). This was the case for all Dental Institutes in Switzerland during this period. In spite of great efforts by the *Swiss Dental Association* (SSO), the dental education in Switzerland was still not formalized and standardized (DELESSERT & BARRAS 2011A).



**Fig. 1** Portrait of André Schroeder, photograph taken by Peter Friedli (FRIEDLI P undated)

At the time, Dental Institutes were subordinated to the Department of Education, and lecturers of Dentistry, most of whom also had their own dental practices, were generally not given a (significant) voice in academic matters, neither at the University nor at the Medical Faculty. It was thus considered a great success when the *Zahnärztliches Institut Basel* became an official University Institute in 1937. In addition, lecturers were granted a voice – albeit small – in Medical Faculty matters and, two years later, were also allowed to pursue post-doctoral studies as well as to work towards a professorship (*Habilitation*) in Dentistry (LAMBRECHT 2010).

In comparison with the situation in Germany, where the first Dental Institute associated with a University was founded as early as in 1884 (in Berlin), and the right to pursue a *Habilitation* was granted as early as in 1923 (GROSS 1994, 2019), the development in Switzerland lagged behind considerably. German Universities had also long offered *Ordinarie* (chaired professorships) in Dentistry (GROSS 2019; GROSS & SCHÄFER 2009), while Swiss Universities offered only *Extraordinarie* (associate professorships) – with all of the inherent restrictions in research, teaching and University administration. It was not until 1970 that the first *Extraordinarie* in Dentistry in Switzerland were converted into *Ordinarie* – initially in Bern (BICKEL 1984). What must be kept in mind, however, is that there still was a clear hierarchical separation between Medicine and Dentistry at the Medical Faculties in other European countries like Germany at this time (GROSS 2019).

In any case, by the late 1930s, an academic path for the student André Schroeder had been paved in Basel. By this time, he had decided to switch to the field of Dentistry. Schroeder's father had run into financial difficulties due to the war and studying Dentistry seemed less costly and time-consuming than studying Medicine. One year after graduation (1944), Schroeder married Heidy Buss from Basel. The couple had two daughters. In 1945, Schroeder earned his doctorate from the School of Medicine in Basel with a focus on large-cell adenomas of the thyroid gland. In 1944, Schroeder started to work as an assistant in various departments of the local *Zahnärztliches Institut* (1944–1948). From this point in his career onward, Schroeder tried to apply his wide-ranging interests in various areas of Dentistry, initially focusing on dental care in schools. In 1948, Schroeder established a private dental practice with his mentor Professor Rudolf Schwarz and simultaneously resumed his study of Medicine, which he subsequently broke off again in 1951. At that time, he was offered the position of Head of the state-run *Volkszahnklinik Basel*, despite some reservations about his young age. Schroeder remained Director of the *Volkszahnklinik* until 1959. In 1957, almost 20 years after the establishment of the law allowing a *Habilitation* in Dentistry at the University of Basel, Schroeder presented his *Habilitation* thesis “Zur Frage des sogenannten bakterien-dichten Wurzelkanalabschlusses” (“On the question of the so-called bacteria-proof root canal obturation”) (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005).

### Professorial appointment in Bern, Editor of the *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* and first Full Professor (1959–1967)

In the 1950s, the *Zahnärztliches Institut Bern* made significant progress in terms of institutional development and expanded facilities. The disciplines of Operative Dentistry, Prosthetics, Oral Surgery, Orthodontics and Crown-Bridge Prosthodontics were established as individual departments; in 1951 these departments were converted into *Extraordinariate* (BICKEL 1984).

When André Schroeder was appointed as Associate Professor of Operative Dentistry at the *Zahnärztliches Institut Bern* in 1959, he could act out his tremendous scientific drive and consistently improve his professional reputation (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005). Using the human and institutional resources now at his disposal, Schroeder primarily did research on endodontic anti-inflammatory drugs composed of a glucocorticoid and an antibiotic as well as on various filling materials used in endodontics. At the time, these fields of research were in their infancy, making Schroeder a pioneer in this area (EHRMANN 2004).

In the 1950s, Schroeder introduced AH 26<sup>®</sup>, the first epoxy resin-based root filling material; today, this material is marketed in a more refined form as AH Plus<sup>®</sup>. In the early 1960s, he succeeded in doing the same with Ledermix<sup>®</sup> (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; SCHROEDER 1950; SCHROEDER & TRIADAN 1960, 1961). Surprisingly, it is not well known in today's circles that André Schroeder and his colleague Hugo Triadan developed this combination of corticoid/antibiotic, which has been used for decades (SCHROEDER 1997).

In 1961, Schroeder was appointed director of the *Zahnärztliches Institut Bern*, succeeding his late colleague Adolf Ott. During his two-year term as rotating Director, Schroeder promoted the expansion of the Institute, created new assistant positions and established an animal facility for preclinical research, which was put into operation in 1964 (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005).

During this time, Schroeder's career continued to gain momentum: His excellent communication and diplomatic skills, as well as his professionalism, later attested to by the Dean's office of the Medical Faculty (UAB 1984B), made him the ideal candidate for the position of Editor in Chief for the German section of the *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* (today: *SWISS DENTAL JOURNAL SSO*). During his ten years as Editor in Chief (1965–1975), Schroeder, owing to his professional network and the recruitment of renowned authors, was able to increase the journal's reputation in the dental community (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; HESS 1965). Additionally, in 1965 Schroeder was elected Secretary of the Medical Faculty in Bern – as the first representative of the *Zahnärztliches Institut*. This move brought him much closer to the “center of power” at the Medical Faculty (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005).

Schroeder's extraordinary commitment and visibility as a researcher and faculty member did not escape the attention of the Department of Education, which was, at the time, still responsible for the supervision of the *Zahnärztliches Institut*. This paid off in 1967, when Schroeder was called back to Basel and a fundamental decision was required: In a letter the Department of Education assured the Dean of the Medical Faculty in Bern, Professor Escher, that “we will do everything in our power to ensure Prof. Schroeder remains at our University” (UAB 1967A). The Dean then made it clear that “a potential promotion to Full Professor *ad personam*” would greatly simplify Schroeder's decision of whether or not to remain in Bern (UAB 1967D). In contrast to a regularly budgeted *Ordinariat*, this *Ordinariat* would be linked to Schroeder's person and the position, in principle, would not be incorporated into the organizational chart or permanent budget of the *Institut*. This proposal reflected a lingering, fundamental reservation regarding the academic value of Dentistry. In a report, the Department of Education praised Schroeder's commitment. According to this report, Schroeder had “gained extensive recognition at home and abroad” and had played a very

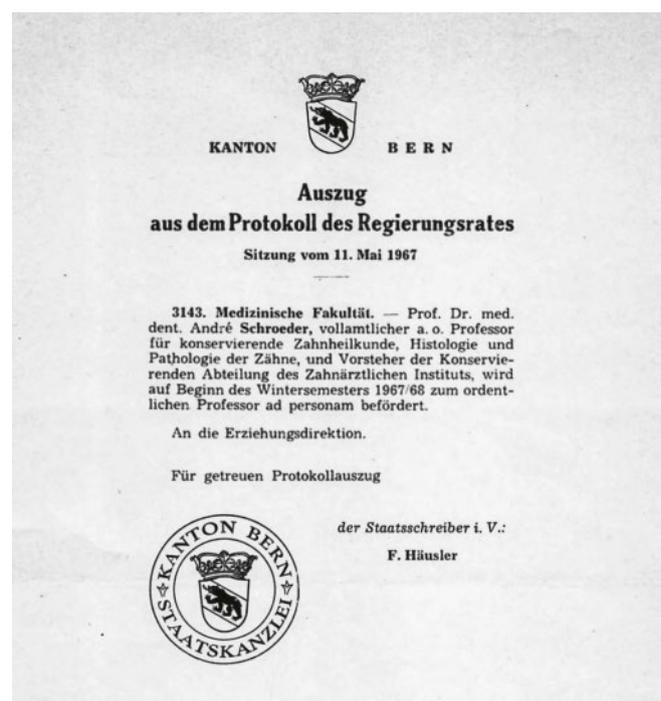


Fig. 2 Certificate of the appointment of André Schroeder as first Full Professor of Dentistry in Switzerland (UAB 1967B)

special role in the “excellent understanding between the Dental Institute and the Medical Faculty” (UAB 1967c). On 24 May 1967, the committee voted unanimously in favor of the Dean’s proposal (UAB 1967d). André Schroeder thus decided to stay in Bern and in the same year, due to his outstanding achievements, became the first dentist in Switzerland to be appointed as Full Professor (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005). The excerpt from the minutes in Fig. 2 documents this personal achievement – which simultaneously denotes a milestone in the evolution of Swiss Academic Dentistry.

### Groundbreaking accomplishments and the Dean’s office in Bern (1968–1973)

Later in his life, Schroeder recalled his most important goal at the beginning of his tenure in Bern: “Above all, it was necessary to fully integrate Dentistry into the Medical Faculty” (HOTZ 2005).

By the end of the 1960s, the time for this integration was more favorable than ever. The student revolts of the time did not pass Bern, and these protests brought about far-reaching structural changes, resulting in the reorganization, growth and reestablishment of many Institutes and an increase in the rights of students and lecturers. The pressure placed on the individual schools by the growing number of students as well as the general economic recovery facilitated this expansion. The Medical Faculty in Bern ultimately profited from this development as well: by increasing the number of jobs, improving working conditions and expanding the *Inselspital*, it also gained international recognition (GEERING 2005).

In 1969, the Interfaculty Medical Committee developed the so-called Rossi Plan, a proposal for the reform of medical studies. After several failed attempts of the SSO in previous years, Dentistry was now part of the equation: The Federal Expert Commission for Dentistry – taking into account the requirements of the Dental Institutes and the SSO – advocated the alignment of the study of Dentistry with the study of Medicine. The SSO also recommended the strengthening of Dental Institutes and their specialist areas, as well as the recognition of advanced training programs (DELESSERT & BARRAS 2011b). With the introduction of the new academic regulations for Dentistry, permissions for non-academic dental practitioners were abandoned (DELESSERT & BARRAS 2011c); here, too, Switzerland followed the example of its European neighboring countries, in which the careers of those trained as craftsmen or dental technicians were doomed to extinction (GROSS 2019).

As the first Full Professor and also as an increasingly respected faculty member (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005), Schroeder was able to exert considerable influence. He was therefore in an excellent position to benefit from the circumstances which arose when, in 1970, the Dean of the Medical Faculty on behalf of the *Zahnärztliches Institut* approached the Department of Education and applied for the “conversion of the current department chairs into *Ordinarie*” (UAB 1970). This request was approved of at a faculty meeting on 1 July 1970, where the proposal for the renaming of the *Zahnärztliches Institut* to *Zahnmedizinische Kliniken der Universität Bern* (ZMK Bern) was drafted (UAB 1970; BICKEL 1984). The University of Basel did not follow the example of the newly renamed ZMK Bern until more than a decade later (LAMBRECHT 2010).

Once again Schroeder had set the standard for the professionalization of Dentistry: the aforementioned letter written in 1970 by the Dean (Fig. 3) was a milestone insofar as it ultimately

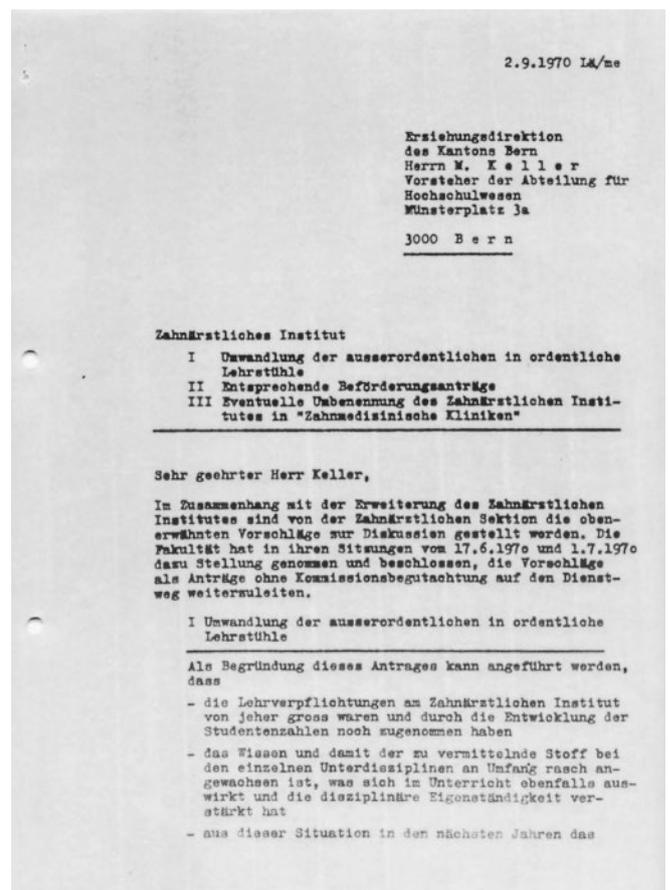


Fig. 3 Excerpt from the application to convert the academic chairs of the dental department into Ordinarie and to rename the Zahnärztliches Institut Bern to Zahnmedizinische Kliniken Bern (UAB 1970)

meant that the academic fields of Dentistry and Medicine received equal treatment regarding the number of department chairs. Since by this point Schroeder had long exerted considerable influence in the Dean’s office, it was the logical next step when he was elected Dean of the Medical Faculty the following year: From 1971 to 1973 Schroeder – again, as the first dentist in Switzerland – headed the Dean’s office (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; HOTZ 2005). He had now risen to the most powerful position in the Medical Faculty. As he later recalled, the previous years had been “the manifestation of a difficult struggle” and the most difficult time of his entire career – but with a happy ending: “The goal had been reached, Dentistry had become a permanent part of the Medical Faculty, challenged by no one” (GEERING 2005). During Schroeder’s tenure as Dean, restructuring of the dental and medical educational curricula according to the Rossi Plan of 1969 was initiated. From 1971 onwards, the curriculum in Dentistry was divided into four semesters of pre-clinical study involving the first and second propaedeutic, followed by six semesters of clinical study involving the third propaedeutic (HOTZ 2010).

As Dean, Schroeder advocated the establishment of a permanent Institute for Medical History (BOSCHUNG 2014). The subsequent Dean, Professor Reuter, later confirmed in a letter that Schroeder had “helped to overcome many obstacles in what was then a difficult period of academic reform” and “made a tremendous contribution not only to the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern, but also to the University as a whole” (UAB 1984A).

At a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Dental School, the managing director held a speech in which he celebrated the completion of the multistage integration process into the Medical Faculty (HERREN 1971), which at the University of Bern Schroeder had promoted through a wealth of diplomatic skills and energy (BUSER & HOTZ 2004; SAB 1978). The adjustments of the Institute's structure, the academic reforms, the change to full professorships and ultimately Schroeder's election as Dean all marked milestones on the road to achieving complete equality with the "big sister," Medicine (HERREN 1971). Dean Schroeder also took advantage of the festive setting and gave a speech about the future of Dentistry (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005), in which he emphasized the equality between dentists and physicians. He referred to a quote by Hans Goldmann, former President of the University of Bern, who had described the role of physicians with the words: "Avoid illness and help the sick." According to Schroeder, this was no less valid for the role of the dentist (SCHROEDER 1971).

### Professional reorientation and presidential office at the University of Bern (1954–1979)

Upon concluding his tenure as Dean, Schroeder was once again able to intensively pursue his clinical studies (GEERING 2005). Beginning in the early 1970s, he began conducting research with increasing enthusiasm in the still diffuse and highly controversial field of Implant Dentistry, where he was to achieve groundbreaking results similar to those in Endodontics. In cooperation with Fritz Straumann, whose company was experienced in orthopedic metallurgy, Schroeder, together with other colleagues, developed an implant system for clinical use (LANEY 1993). During the development of the hollow-cylinder implant, pioneering histological studies in monkeys showed that an implant with the appropriate surface texture and shape could be firmly integrated into the jaw bone through direct bone-to-implant contact (GROSS 2020). In two landmark papers published in the *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* and the *Journal of Maxillofacial Surgery* (SCHROEDER ET AL. 1976, 1981B) Schroeder et al. called this phenomenon a "functional ankylosis." In 1976, the histological documentation of this direct bone-to-implant contact in non-decalcified sections was a true scientific sensation (GREENBERG 2015; LANG 2004). This evidence of osseointegration by Schroeder in Bern was the nucleus of the success story of the new dental implant system (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; BUSER 2006).

But the true highlights of Schroeder's career were still to come:

In 1979 he was elected President of his University. Schroeder later noted succinctly: "(After everything) President of the University. First dentist in this position at a Swiss University" (GEERING 2005). This honor was not only an acknowledgement of Schroeder's fine reputation, but also reflected once again the ultimate recognition of Academic Dentistry within the University (HOTZ 2010).

During his one-year term in office, Schroeder tried his best to extend his term to at least two years in the interest of improving continuity and stability (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005). It was not, however, until eighteen years later that this aim, which today seems to be a matter of course, could be implemented (GEERING 2005).

Schroeder also demonstrated a keen interest in student affairs. His praise for and recognition of the students at his University (SCHROEDER 1979) were even expressed in his presiden-

tial address at the *Dies Academicus* ("academic day" at the University) (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005). In the press, he was celebrated as a "born mediator" who took it upon himself to personally address the concerns of the Student Council (SAB 1979). In the aforementioned speech at the *Dies Academicus*, Schroeder once again used a public occasion to discuss the evolution of Dentistry from a non-academic field to a scientific discipline.

### Establishment of the ITI, honors and (posthumous) fame (1980 ff.)

Likewise in 1979, Schroeder succeeded in making another – at that time barely imaginable – career move, which would prove to have even more lasting consequences than his tenure as President of the University of Bern: in autumn 1979, together with Fritz Straumann, he decided to found the ITI. Straumann and Schroeder met on 26 November 1979, at the Straumann Institute in Waldenburg. Although the minutes from this meeting were titled "Constitutive Meeting ITI" (AITI 1979; GROSS 2020), the official founding date was later set at 7 February 1980 (AITI 1980; BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; GROSS 2020).

When Schroeder established the ITI and became its founding president, Implant Dentistry was a highly controversial discipline. Accordingly, Schroeder put his good name at risk through his efforts in the minefield of Implant Dentistry. This is clearly illustrated in an interview that the Editor of *Swiss Dent* conducted with Schroeder in 1981, when the latter was asked: "Are you shocked when I tell you that the word Implant Dentistry has a certain negative connotation?" Schroeder answered self-confidently: "I am not surprised, because Implant Dentistry does not necessarily have the best past and the best reputation. This is due to the fact that for some time it has been treated at least less scientifically, but more empirically, and also the indication limits for possible implants in the mouth and jaw area have been extended in an inadmissible way – the latter unfortunately very often out of relatively, let's say 'superficial' motives. [...] Our aim is to place Implant Dentistry on a scientific basis and, in particular, to identify the real indications for them, so that they can ultimately offer real help in Reconstructive Dentistry" (WÜST 1982).

Schroeder's hopeful expectations concerning Implant Dentistry would be proven right. During his last year in office before retirement, he did not miss the chance to present the development of this topic as the main theme of his farewell lecture (UAB 1984C; BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005). Thanks to media coverage of this lecture in the Swiss press (Fig. 4), Schroeder was able to extend the impact beyond that of the university context.

Schroeder remained in office as ITI President from 1980 to 1991 – longer than any president who followed him. In 1991, he was appointed as the first Honorary Fellow of the ITI, and the ITI Research Prize, which is awarded annually to this day, was named in his honor (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005). With close to 20,000 members, the ITI is today the world's largest Association and network in Implant Dentistry, and it is still based on the principles that Schroeder defined in its year of foundation (GROSS 2020; ITI, URL 2019).

After stepping down as ITI President, Schroeder, who had been widowed in 1984, found new personal happiness when in 1994 he married Simone Strobel, a woman he had known since his youth. In 2001, the couple moved into a retirement home. During the last decades of his life Schroeder received

## Hochschullehrer, Forscher und praktizierender Zahnarzt

### Zum Rücktritt von Prof. A. Schroeder – Abschiedsvorlesung über Probleme der Implantologie

Im Hörsaal der Kinderklinik in Bern hat sich Professor Dr. med. dent. André Schroeder mit der Vorlesung Die zwei Kardinalprobleme der Implantologie von Behörden, Dozenten, Angehörigen der Universität, ehemaligen Studierenden, Mitarbeitern und Studenten verabschiedet.

Das Thema Implantologie vermag jeden Zuhörer zu faszinieren: es werden damit die stillen Hoffnungen nach einem möglichst vollwertigen und komfortablen Ersatz verlorengangener Organe angesprochen. Die Zähne stehen im Brennpunkt der Interessen, da die gegenwärtig älteren Generationen von der heute deutsche Erfolge zeigenden Prophylaxe noch nicht profitieren konnten. Tatsächlich konnten in den vergangenen Jahren auf dem Gebiet der oralen Implantologie bedeutende Fortschritte erzielt werden; das Kieferimplantat darf heute in geeigneten Fällen als Behandlungsmöglichkeit in Betracht gezogen werden. Prof. Schroeder war massgebend mitbeteiligt an der Entwicklung, der klinischen und wissenschaftlichen Untersuchung eines heute viel Beachtung findenden Implantattyps, dem sogenannten Hohlzylinderimplantat.

Als erstes Kardinalproblem beleuchtet Prof. Schroeder die Reaktion des Knochens auf den Implantatfremdkörper. Diese ist ohne Zweifel vom Material, von der Form und der Oberfläche des Implantats abhängig. Beim aus reinem Titan bestehenden Hohlzylinderimplantat kann eine direkte Anlagerung des Knochens an den Implantatkörper beobachtet werden – ein Befund, der die positiven klinischen Resultate bestätigt und alle Hoffnungen auf eine Weiterentwicklung der oralen Implantologie erlaubt.

Ein zweites Problem liegt in der Reak-



tion der Weichgewebe im Bereich des Durchtritts des Implantatkörpers durch das Zahnfleisch in die Mundhöhle. An dieser Stelle muss eine optimale Abdichtung stattfinden können, so dass keine Substanzen aus der Mundhöhle und speziell auch keine Bakterien in die Tiefe, in den Knochenbereich vordringen können. Dies würde einen raschen Misserfolg des Implantates und damit dessen Verlust bedeuten.

Ohne Übertreibung darf gesagt werden, dass mit Prof. Schroeder einer der grossen Zahnärzte unserer Zeit in den Ruhestand tritt. Er hat als Hochschullehrer, Forscher und praktizierender Zahnarzt Ausserordentliches geleistet. Sein «feu sacré» und sein begeisterter Unterricht haben einer ganzen Generation von

Zahnärzten starke und unvergessliche Eindrücke vermittelt.

1959 berief der Berner Regierungsrat den damaligen Direktor der Volkshandklinik Basel, PD Dr. A. Schroeder, auf den Lehrstuhl für konservierende Zahnheilkunde, Pathologie und Histologie des Zahnsystems. 1971–73 wirkte Prof. Schroeder als Dekan der medizinischen Fakultät und 1979/1980 als Rektor der Universität Bern. Mit der Verleihung des Dr. h. c. würdigte die Universität Genf 1981 sein langjähriges Engagement für den zahnärztlichen Beruf und die Universität.

Prof. Schroeder verstand es, Studenten, Mitarbeitern und Zahnärzten immer wieder die wichtigen menschlichen Aspekte der Zahnheilkunde zu vermitteln: Der Patient muss im Mittelpunkt stehen; seine Wünsche und Probleme haben wir zu respektieren und mit den uns zur Verfügung stehenden Mitteln und Methoden so weit wie möglich zu erfüllen bzw. zu lösen.

Bei allem Erfolg ist Prof. Schroeder auf sympathische Weise bescheiden geblieben. Seinen Freunden ist er in steter Hilfsbereitschaft verbunden. Charakteristisch für ihn sind dabei seine vorbehaltlose Grosszügigkeit und spontane Herzlichkeit.

Zwischenhalb Jahrzehnte des Wirkens im Dienste der Universität sind eine lange Zeit. Mit Genugtuung darf Professor André Schroeder auf diese Zeit zurückblicken. Seine Freunde, Kollegen und Mitarbeiter sagen ihm Dank für alles, was er ihnen gegeben und was er für die Universität getan hat. Sie hoffen, dass es ihm vergönnt sei, mit seiner ungebrochenen Schaffenskraft noch viele seiner Pläne und Ideen zu verwirklichen und wünschen ihm einen interessanten und anregenden Ruhestand bei guter Gesundheit.

F. Hotz U. Fricker

**Fig. 4** On 3 November 1984, Swiss newspaper Der Bund reports on Schroeder's farewell lecture concerning the development of Implant Dentistry (UAB 1984c).

great international recognition, as evidenced by the honorary doctorate he received from the University of Geneva (1981) and the conferment of several honorary memberships – including that of the renowned *American Academy of Osseointegration* (1993). Schroeder left a legacy of more than 150 publications and over 100 supervised dissertations (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005).

The textbooks written by Schroeder on Endodontics and Implant Dentistry have become standard works on these topics (HOTZ 2005; SCHROEDER 1981a; SCHROEDER ET AL. 1996). In addition, a number of his developments in materials technology have found their way into practical application and many of the principles he outlined regarding Operative and Implant Dentistry are still relevant today (CLAUSEN 2018).

In 2000, the Great Lecture Hall of the ZMK Bern was named after him in a ceremony he was able to attend in person. Four years later, on 7 May 2004, at the age of 86, Schroeder passed away in Bern following a serious illness (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005).

## Discussion

Based on the above evidence, it would appear that André Schroeder was not only able to pursue an exceptional personal career, but also to play a pioneering role in the professionalization of Dentistry and, in particular, university-based Dentistry, in Switzerland. How can this catalytic effect of a single person be explained?

Three factors seem to have played crucial roles: Firstly the initial development of Dentistry was facilitated by Schroeder's gradual assumption of key university positions, such as the first *Ordinariat* (1967) and the university offices of Secretary of the Medical Faculty (1965), Dean (1971) and President of the University of Bern (1979), all of which he boldly exploited in order to promote the development of the discipline and of teaching at the University of Bern and beyond.

Secondly, in order to help Academic Dentistry in Switzerland achieve international recognition Schroeder also made use of

the non-academic sector, as well as of the extensive personal network he had established thanks to his professional and social competence – for example, as the long-standing Editor of the *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* and also as the driving force behind the ITI, which on the one hand was internationally oriented, but on the other hand was seen as a truly Swiss organization (and inextricably linked to André Schroeder).

Thirdly, Schroeder took advantage of public occasions, where he proactively presented the evolution of Dentistry from a non-academic discipline to an advanced scientific discipline on a par with Medicine. Schroeder's speeches as Dean (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; SCHROEDER 1971) and President (BÜHLER & KORDZUMDIEKE 2005; SCHROEDER 1971), which he dedicated to this very topic, are prime examples of this.

One of Schroeder's rhetorical strategies was to explicitly apply the maxim “Avoid illness and help the sick” (SCHROEDER 1971) to the dental profession. According to a statement made by Schroeder in 1979, modern Dentistry had, by this point, finally moved away from treating the symptom merely through pain relief to treating the cause through relevant, basic research in preventive care, new developments in anesthesia and a significant expansion in the range of available therapies – a perfectly justified statement (GROSS 2019).

Schroeder, however, neither shied away from making far-reaching claims: the aim of modern Dentistry was “to eradicate dental diseases altogether and thus make the issue of pain relief essentially irrelevant,” as he put it (SCHROEDER 1979). Particularly in this context, the science of Dentistry, through the preoccupation with the idea of prevention, gained entry into the realm of so-called “political responsibility.” To continue: It is “the duty of every dentist and his assistants to commit themselves to prevention vis-à-vis politicians and authorities, teachers and kindergarten teachers, in private practices as well as in clinics” (SCHROEDER 1979). Initially Schroeder thus linked the new scientific significance of dentistry to its increasing importance for society as a whole. By intertwining two central arguments – the scientific relevance *and* the benefits for public health – he implicitly emphasized the importance of university dental education and the dental profession. Both aspects still make up part of the self-image of Dentistry today and justify its unique status as a liberal profession (DELESSERT & BARRAS 2011c; KELLER 2011).

The fact that Schroeder was successful with this rhetorical strategy and thus managed to ennoble the field of Dentistry – especially in Switzerland, but also abroad – undoubtedly had to do with his personality and his behavior: at a recent symposium on the occasion of the 100th birthday of André Schroeder, Daniel Buser, Chairman of the Clinic for Oral Surgery at the ZMK Bern and former President of the ITI, remembered Schroeder for his distinguishing qualities: Schroeder was an “excellent lecturer and leader” with an exemplary character, as well as a “team player with diplomatic skills” (RAABE 2018). Both of these qualities benefited Swiss Academic Dentistry and also explain the considerable renown that still distinguishes Schroeder today, exactly fifteen years after his death.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the staff of the Institute of Medical History, the City Archives and the University Archives of Bern, and the archive of the ITI in Basel for their valuable advice and support.

## Zusammenfassung

### Einleitung

Die Karriere des Zahnmediziners und langjährigen Chefredaktors der *Schweizerischen Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* (Vorgängerin des *SWISS DENTAL JOURNAL SSO*) André Schroeder (1918–2004) ist in mehrfacher Hinsicht einzigartig. Vor genau 40 Jahren erreichte sie mit dem Amt des Rektors der Universität Bern ihren Höhepunkt – Schroeder war der erste Zahnarzt in der Schweizer Universitätsgeschichte, der diese höchste Stufe der universitären Karriereleiter erklomm. Doch das Rektoramt war nicht seine erste Pionierleistung: Zuvor war er bereits als erster Ordinarius (1967) und Dekan (1971) aus den Reihen der Zahnmediziner hervorgetreten. Zudem fasste er 1979 den Entschluss, das ITI zu gründen, das sich zur weltweit grössten implantologischen Gesellschaft entwickeln sollte.

Der vorliegende Beitrag nimmt die besagten Jubiläen zum Anlass, (1) die Karrierestationen André Schroeders nachzuzeichnen und sie (2) in den fach- und hochschulpolitischen Kontext ihrer Zeit einzubetten. In diesem Zusammenhang gilt es, (3) zu klären, inwieweit und mit welchen Mitteln der Pionier Schroeder auf die Professionalisierung der universitären Zahnheilkunde in der Schweiz Einfluss nahm.

### Material und Methoden

Grundlage der Studie sind bislang wenig beachtete Primärquellen aus dem Universitätsarchiv, dem Stadtarchiv Bern und dem Archiv des ITI; sie wurden ergänzt durch die einschlägige Sekundärliteratur.

### Resultate und Diskussion

Die Quellenauswertung ergibt, dass Schroeder auf verschiedene Weise als Schrittmacher der Entwicklung der universitären Zahnheilkunde in der Schweiz wirkte: Zum Ersten nutzte er die universitären Schlüsselpositionen gezielt zugunsten der Weiterentwicklung des Fachs. Zum Zweiten verhalf er der Schweizer Zahnheilkunde auch durch ausseruniversitäre Aktivitäten – etwa als Chefredaktor der *Schweizerischen Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* und Initiator des ITI – zu Sichtbarkeit und fachlicher Anerkennung. Zum Dritten thematisierte Schroeder auch im öffentlichen Raum gezielt die zunehmende Relevanz der Zahnheilkunde, indem er die wichtigsten Argumente – ihre wissenschaftlichen Potenziale und ihre Gemeinwohlorientierung – in rhetorisch versierter Manier verknüpfte.

## Résumé

### Introduction

La carrière d'André Schroeder (1918–2004), médecin-dentiste et rédacteur en chef de longue date du *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* (prédécesseur du *SWISS DENTAL JOURNAL SSO*) est unique à bien des égards. Il y a exactement 40 ans, elle a atteint son apogée avec le poste de recteur de l'Université de Berne – Schroeder a été le premier dentiste de l'histoire universitaire suisse à gravir cette haute marche de la carrière universitaire. Mais le poste de recteur n'était pas sa première réalisation pionnière: parmi les dentistes, il a été le premier à être nommé professeur titulaire (1967) et doyen (1971). En 1979, il a également décidé de fonder l'ITI, qui allait devenir jusqu'à ce jour la plus grande société d'implantologie du monde. Cet article profite de ces anniversaires pour (1) retracer les différentes étapes de la carrière d'André Schroeder et (2) les inscrire dans le contexte politique universitaire ainsi que dans les grands débats scientifiques de leur époque. À cet égard, il est nécessaire de clarifier (3) dans quelle mesure et par quels moyens le pionnier Schroeder a influencé la professionnalisation de la médecine dentaire universitaire en Suisse.

### Matériels et méthodes

L'étude s'appuie sur des sources primaires des Archives de l'Université de Berne, de celles de la Ville de Berne et de celles de l'ITI qui n'ont que peu retenu l'attention jusqu'ici; elles ont été complétées par la littérature secondaire pertinente.

### Résultats et discussion

L'évaluation des sources montre que Schroeder a joué un rôle de stimulateur pour le développement de l'odontologie universitaire suisse de différentes manières: tout d'abord, il a utilisé de manière ciblée des postes universitaires clés pour le développement ultérieur de la discipline. Deuxièmement, il a également contribué à la visibilité et à la reconnaissance professionnelle de l'odontologie suisse par le biais d'activités non universitaires – par exemple en tant que rédacteur en chef du *Schweizerische Monatsschrift für Zahnheilkunde* et initiateur de l'ITI. Troisièmement, Schroeder a également abordé spécifiquement la pertinence croissante de l'odontologie dans l'espace public en reliant les deux arguments les plus importants – leur potentiel scientifique et leur orientation vers le bien commun – d'une manière rhétorique accomplie.

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