

LETTER OF OBITUARY:

Grant Townsend

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with sadness that I write to inform you of the passing of Professor Grant Townsend on May 25th, after battling illness over the last 12 months.

Many of you will know Grant from his involvement in the Dental Anthropology Association, and from his attendance at ISDM and AAPA meetings over the last 40 years. Many of you will also have known him as a collaborator, co-author, supervisor, mentor and friend.

It's difficult to sum up the depth and breadth of Grant's contributions to the field of dental anthropology in a few short paragraphs, but some of his key achievements include holding the Chair of Dental Science at the University of Adelaide for over 20 years; work on the collection and analysis of a seminal longitudinal data set from the Yuendumu people of central Australia, with Murray Barrett and Tas Brown; initiating a series of longitudinal Australian twin cohorts to quantify the role of genes and the environment in the development of various morphological features; publishing over 200 peer-reviewed articles, as well as numerous books and book chapters; and sitting on the editorial boards of many distinguished journals, including *Dental Anthropology* from 1997-2002.

Some of the many awards Grant received during his career included the *Medaille de la ville de Paris* for contributions to research in the field of dental anthropology; the IADR(ANZ) Alan Docking Science Award for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of dental research, and the IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Craniofacial Biology Research in recognition of outstanding contributions to research over a significant period of time.

A great collaborator, Grant spent time in many research centres internationally over the course of his career, including sabbaticals in Finland and the United Kingdom, and visits throughout South-East Asia and the United States. During these times he developed long-standing friendships with other

members of our community, many of whom would later go on to spend time in the Murray Barrett Research Laboratory in Adelaide working on the collections Grant curated.

Grant's enthusiasm for dental anthropology never waned, and he continued to work on projects arising from the longitudinal cohorts up until early this year, many of which remain ongoing. Grant will be missed by his extended research family at the Craniofacial Biology Research Group in Adelaide, and by those he worked with around the world.

TOBY HUGHES

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