



Israel Leon Dogon



Photograph courtesy of Harvard School of Dental Medicine

I. Leon Dogon, LDS, RCS, DMD, Professor Emeritus at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and longtime research scientist at The Forsyth Dental Center, was a native of South Africa, and witnessed firsthand that country's disparities in health care. He earned his first dental degree in 1957 from the University of London and Royal College of Surgeons. Dr. Dogon devoted his career to expanding dental health care to underserved communities around the globe. He established preventative oral health programs in Bosnia, China, India, Indonesia, Macedonia, Poland, and the United States. While a very engaged Professor of Operative Dentistry, an exceptional teacher and clinician, when he was involved in global oral health issues he became a different person.

He had an early interest in China and traveled there for the first time in 1979. What started slowly became a dedication of 2-3 months a year working in China for the next 25 years. During that time, there were few dental education resources in that country. That changed in part due to Dr. Dogon's work. As a result of his contributions to curriculum development, Dr. Dogon was granted honorary professorships at three major dental schools in China. He served as Project Hope's director of dental education program, based in large part on the pioneering work he had done with underserved school populations in the Boston area. In Boston, he worked with 3M to develop a tooth sealant to help prevent dental decay, that could be applied by lay people who had little access to dental health resources.

In order to enable future students to follow in his footsteps, Dr. Dogon established the first of its kind endowed Harvard School of Dental Student Travel Fund. The fellowship made it possible for interested students to travel to developing areas and either conduct a research project or carry out service work or education in a clinic abroad.

He was a born teacher and loved to be around and with students in various venues. He directed the Harvard chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the honorary dental fraternity for many years. He relished the annual selection process of new students and faculty members and was instrumental in making the OKU dinner a memorable experience for all.

Dr. Dogon was born in Krugersdorp, South Africa, April 13, 1930. He attended Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa, and earned his first dental degrees from the London Hospital Dental School, University of London, and the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1958, he accepted a temporary research position at Forsyth Dental Center, met his future wife Sally, and settled in the Boston area. In 1963, Dr. Dogon received his DMD from Harvard University. Some of the appointments he held included Head of the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, assistant Dean for Students Affairs, Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs' at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Head of the Department of Dental Materials, Forsyth Dental Center, and Director Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, HSDM residency Program in General Dentistry.

Leon Dogon was at his best when abroad, teaching, directing and making connections between peoples. He helped establish a model for Preventive Dentistry/ Dental Hygiene and research programs beginning in Shanghai and Xian Hospitals of Stomatology. The dental department at the 9th Hospital in Shanghai was named for him to honor him. I had the privilege of going with this program to China in 1986 and his contributions and results were astounding. Many friendships were forged that were lasting. He was an incredible force for good.

Dr. Dogon was born April 13, 1930 and died May 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Donoff, *Chairperson*

Howard Howell

Thomas Albert