Father of CT scanner dies

Daniel Zimmermann

KENSINGTON, MD & WASHINGTON, D.C., USA: One of the pioneers of CT scanning technology for use in medicine has died at the age of 86. Robert S. Ledley, a trained dentist turned biomedical researcher, passed away in July, family members told US media.

Ledley had suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. He died in a nursing facility in Kensington, Md., near Washington, D.C., leaving his wife, two sons and four grandchildren, according to the notice of death.

Ledley started work on CT scanning technology while he was working as a professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the Georgetown University Medical Center’s School of Medicine. There, he presented the first functional device able to perform a full-body scan to the public in 1975. The original is currently on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

“In addition to his achievements in the field of CT scanning, Ledley also helped to develop the Film Input to Digital Automatic Computer, an image-scanning technology used in the analysis of chromosomes, as well as a diagnostic device to assist in the diagnosis and study of neurological and ophthalmic disorders called the Comput erized Electro Neuro Ophthalmograph,” Ledley held a dental degree from the New York University College of Dentistry received in 1948. During his dental career, he served both at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center of the US Army Dental Corps and at the former National Bureau of Standards’ Dental Materials Section, where he developed a system to optimise the fitting of dentures.

For his scientific work, Ledley was awarded the National Medal of Technology, among other honours. He is also an inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame since the year 1990. 

“Bob lived a wonderful and productive life. He certainly will be missed,” Wong added.

Ledley had suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. He died in a nursing facility in Kensington, Md., near Washington, D.C., leaving his wife, two sons and four grandchildren, according to the notice of death.

Ledley started work on CT scanning technology while he was working as a professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the Georgetown University Medical Center’s School of Medicine. There, he presented the first functional device able to perform a full-body scan to the public in 1975. The original is currently on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

“Bob’s intellectual span and pioneering always amazed me,” radiologist and Editor-in-Chief of Computerized Medical Imaging and Graphics, a scientific journal Ledley founded in 1976, Stephen Wong told Dental Tribune. “His relentless efforts in applying electronics, computing, and mathematics to improve medicine not only made lasting impacts to the fields of medical imaging, bioinformatics, and health informatics, but also has inspired many generations of scientists, engineers, and researchers, including myself, to dedicate their lives to this profession.”

Robert S. Ledley posing with the world’s first CT scanner at the National Museum of American History/Smithsonian Institutes.

THE WORLD SPEAKS e.max.

SO DOES THE SCIENCE.

UP TO 10 YEARS1 OF CLINICAL EVIDENCE.

98.2% CROWN SURVIVAL RATE.

40 MILLION RESTORATIONS.2

1 PROVEN SYSTEM:

IPS e.max

all ceramic
all you need

www.ivoclarvivadent.com