It was with great sadness that we received news of the death of Professor Crispian Scully, Emeritus Professor Of Oral Medicine of UCL and past Dean and Director of Research and Studies (1993-2008) of Eastman Dental Institute. Professor Scully was a unique individual who significantly impacted upon very many aspects of oral health care and allied research and education. He received the Queens Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2003. He was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the 1999 New Year Honours.

Despite many leadership roles and their attendant successes Crispian authored over 1,100 publications of all types and published over 40 textbooks as author, co-author or editor, several of which he regularly updated and are considered the pre-eminent subject texts (e.g. Scully’s Medical Problems in Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Oral and Maxillofacial Diseases) and led to the award of publication prizes. His research and publication acumen are further demonstrated by his creation of two journals – Oral Oncology and Oral Diseases, both of which are considered to be among the best journals of their subject areas - with ever increasing impact factors.

He held senior positions in many national and international specialty organisations including Presidencies of the British Society for Oral Medicine (on two occasions), the British Society for Disability and Oral Health, the European Association for Oral Medicine, the International Association for Oral Oncology and the Federation of Oral Medicine. His industry, impact and skills are reflected in the award of University Doctorates (Athens, Granada, Helsinki, Pretoria), Medals (Helsinki, Granada, Santiago de Compostela), awards from the Spanish, Greek and Romanian Oral Medicine Societies and the UK Award for Most Outstanding Achievements in Dentistry. Crispian was one of a small number of guiding clinicians (working with Alexander Rapidis, John Langdon, Jatin Shah & Jean-Louis Lefebvre) who founded the IAOO in 2004/5, leading to highly successful succession of International Congresses in Heraklion (2005), Amsterdam (2007), Toronto (2009), Singapore (2011), Rhodes (2013) and Sao Paulo (2015).

Crispian Scully was unique. There is unlikely to be anyone in the near future in dentistry with such energy and focus. Throughout this professional journey Professor Scully was supported and guided by his wife, Zoe, and daughter Frances. It is fitting that those who have benefited from Professor Scully’s life's work should think of them at this sad time. IAOO has established a "Crispian Scully" Lecture at the IAOO congresses, in memory of his legendary work in Oral Oncology.

Jatin P. Shah, Chairman of the Council
Luiz P. Kowalski, IAOO President
Andre L. Carvalho, IAOO Secretary
Richard Shaw, IAOO Treasurer