

Cher Horace,

this year, the board of trustees of the Scientific Endometriosis Foundation has decided to award you with the Rokitansky Prize.

The prize is an initiative of Peter Oppelt and was first awarded to Paolo Vercellini in 2013 on the occasion of the congress in Linz. Subsequent laureates were Lilo Mettler, Jörg Keckstein, Ivo Brosens, Caterina Exacoustos, and Gerhard Leyendecker. All of them are outstanding clinicians and scientists who have devoted their professional lives to the research on endometriosis and to the care of women suffering from this disease. Lilo, Caterina, Jörg, it is a great pleasure to see you here.

Horace, you started your undergraduate medical education in Romania and completed it in Paris in 1998. After 5 years of residency in Rouen, you achieved a master and a PhD degree back in Paris, followed by a clinical fellowship in Charleston, South Carolina. In 2011 you became Full Professor in Rouen and since 2018 you work as an endometriosis surgeon at the Franco-European Multidisciplinary Institute for Endometriosis in Bordeaux, and at the IFEM Endo-Middle East Clinic, Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi. Besides numerous prestigious awards for surgical videos, you have been honored by a doctorate from the University of Bucharest as well as a professorship at the University of Aarhus. Last year, you hosted a highly successful European Endometriosis Conference in Bordeaux - despite a very difficult personal situation.

When browsing through your publications in PubMed - which takes some time, because there are 212 of them - something special becomes evident: You not only report on new surgical techniques and impressive case series, but you always aspire to answer important practical questions: Which infertility patient benefits from radical surgery? Is it risky to delay surgery in deep infiltrating endometriosis? How can we reduce repeat surgeries? Are protective colostomies necessary? - to name just a few. By doing so, you have contributed substantially to a reliable body of evidence. A lot of this evidence is made more reproducible by the #Enzian classification, which you have helped to establish. Other clinicians and affected women can draw upon this valuable knowledge when taking difficult decisions. So, we all owe you.

Therefore, may I ask you to come to the podium to receive the Rokitansky Prize 2023 and give us your prize lecture.