

Hal Huggins Remembered: Father of Holistic, Mercury-Free Dentistry Passes

By Bill Wolfe, DDS



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Holistic dentist, researcher, author, and chemist Hal Huggins, died on November 29, 2014. He was the single most important leader in holistic dentistry, who ignited the anti-dental amalgam mercury movement in America.

On subjects ranging from dental amalgam mercury fillings, root canal treated teeth, and dental implants, Huggins challenged the dental establishment point of view that these procedures are safe. Huggins brought forth an extensive body of scientific research, along with a library of patient case reports to argue such practices can lead to immune disorders, neurological diseases, and other illnesses. He also developed protocols for the removal of amalgam fillings and the extraction of root canals/dead teeth.

In the 1970's, Huggins began to study the role of nutrition in dentistry and how a patient's blood chemistry could be used to monitor the success of a patient's treatment. A turning point happened when Dr. Olympio Pinto, a Brazilian dentist, told Huggins of the impacts that dental materials have on patients' blood chemistries and how the use of dental amalgams, which are half mercury, cause a deterioration of health indicators, as seen in the blood.

Huggins completed a Master's Degree at the University of Colorado in Immunology and Toxicology in 1989 and in 1990 founded the Huggins Diagnostic Center in Colorado Springs, where many healing disciplines were blended with health conscious, non-toxic dentistry. However, as with other holistic dentist leaders of the day, Huggins became a target of his state dental board. He was charged that his removal of mechanically sound dental amalgam mercury fillings and root canaled teeth was "unethical, unprofessional, and against the standard of care". In addition, the state attorney general of Colorado charged him with "practicing medicine without a license", due to Huggins' monitoring of the blood chemistries on his patients and nutritional counseling. After a lengthy and expensive legal battle, Huggins was finally shut down in 1995, and his specialized dental treatment operatories were physically destroyed.

However, Huggins was not one to quit his research and his efforts to reform dentistry. He could still exercise his First Amendment right to speak out and to publish, (and he did), researching and authoring many books on the health effects of dentistry: www.hugginsappliedhealing.com and teaching dentists how to become health conscious in their work.

Dr. Thomas Levy said "I don't believe anybody deserves more credit than Hal Huggins for starting and for leading the anti-mercury amalgam movement in the world. Very many people have been less sick, have lived longer lives, and have been able to prosper health-wise because of the bulldog tenacity of Dr. Huggins in making sure his fellow dentists absolutely understood how toxic mercury is and how crazy it is to put mercury fillings inside someone's mouth.

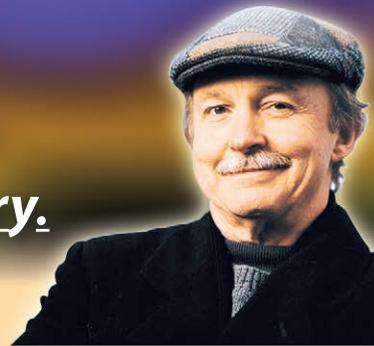
Bringing his intelligence and moral courage to bear against the entrenched and powerful dental establishment, Hal Huggins gained fame and admiration of many. Yet, enduring setbacks and many types of attacks, he paid a serious price for taking his stand... But he never gave up.

NOTE: Hal Huggins saved my life in 1979, when after having tumor surgery I went to one of his balancing body chemistry seminars in Colorado Springs. He had me hold my hands up to a mercury vapor detector. I had enough vapor coming out of my skin that OSHA could have fined me for a mercury spill.

It took me about five seconds to decide to become a mercury free dentist, and although I didn't know what to do, I knew I could no longer place mercury amalgam fillings. Years later, I had the opportunity to work for Dr. Huggins, when I was taking a break from private practice. He was an inspiration to me, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have known him. He re-energized me with the realization of the incredible importance dentistry has on health.

Never, never, never give up. ~ Winston Churchill

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