

30 YEARS OF ZEISS OPERATION MICROSCOPES 30 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN MICROSURGERY*

A major step in the direction of modern microsurgery was made at the beginning of the fifties, when Carl Zeiss Oberkochen added a new tool to the surgeon's equipment: the operation microscope. A team of Zeiss engineers led by Dr. Hans Littmann, convinced of the tremendous possibilities the instrument would offer, designed the first one, the OPMI 1. In cooperation with leading surgeons they developed it until it was fit for series production.

The first Zeiss operation microscope was introduced in 1953, and already included the main basic features that the microscopes of the eighties have. Today, Zeiss OPMI's are the most widely used operation microscopes in the world, with a total of over 40.000 sold. And the OPMI 1 still heads the field in the comprehensive line of 5 different basic types for the most varied requirements.

In the early years it was mainly the younger specialists, like prof. Hosrt Wullstein (ENT), and ophthalmology Profs. Heinrich Harms and José I. Barraquer, who realised the advantages of a stable magnifying visual aid independent of the surgeon's movements, and who therefore became pioneers of microsurgery.

In the end, one of the main reasons for the worldwide breakthrough of the operation microscope was the fact that it was ideally suited for documentation with still and cine cameras. Films which had been shot through the microscope actually during operations and showed the exact field of view of the surgeon were run at congresses and further training courses and went a long way towards making these microscopes a familiar sight all over the world.

The use of the new microscopes in microsurgery also resulted in the development of new surgical techniques which would otherwise not have benn

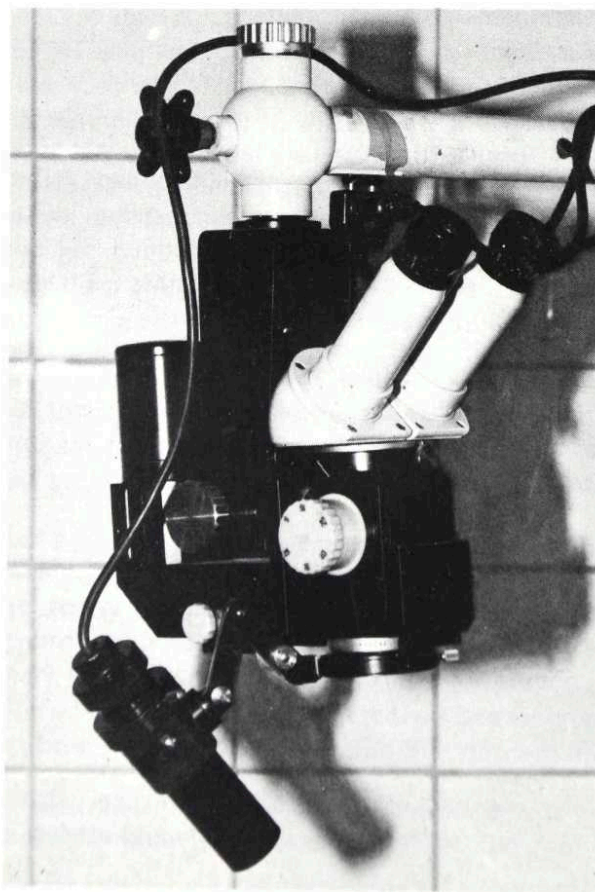
* *Presse information: Zeiss - (Carl Zeiss Oberkochen)*

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possible in many fields, particularly ear and ophthalmic surgery, and later also vascular and neurosurgery.

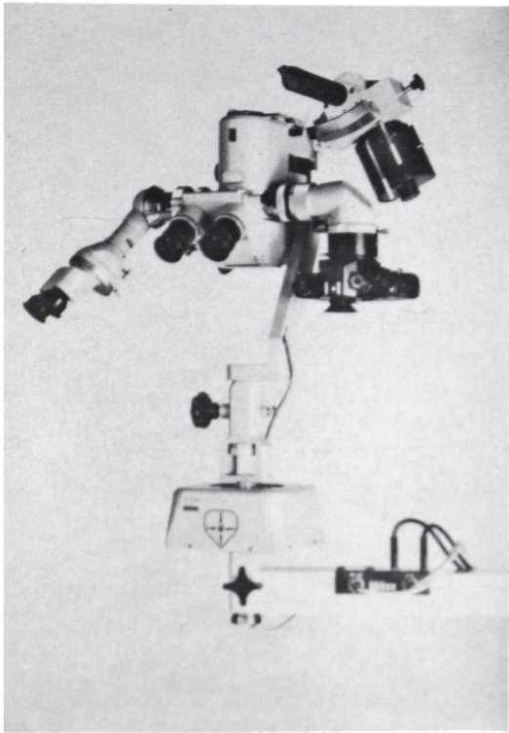
As the number of applications grew, so did the Zeiss line of operation microscopes. Today there are five basic OPMI types permitting a wide variety of microscope models with different viewing and illumination systems. 18 suspension systems and over 150 accessories ensure tailor-made solutions to every problem.

Constant new developments and improvements demonstrate that, 30 years after the introduction of the first Zeiss OPMI, new fields of application and new problems are still constantly cropping up for which the operation microscope provides the ideal solution. Today, Carl Zeiss Oberkochen are still doing everything in their power to provide the surgeon with the most up-to-date technology - and this is on thing that the future will not change.



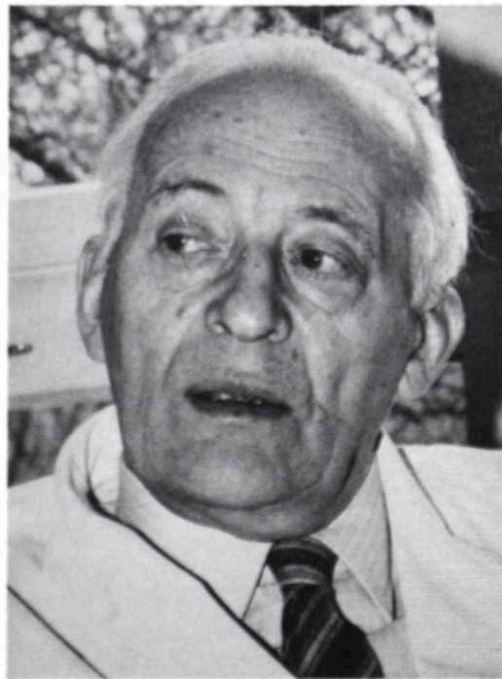
One of the first Zeiss Operation Microscopes OPMI from 1953.

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Zeiss Operation Microscope OPM16C, with x-y coupling, surgical slit illuminator, stereo co-observation tube, photo equipment.

A modern operation microscope of the 1980s.

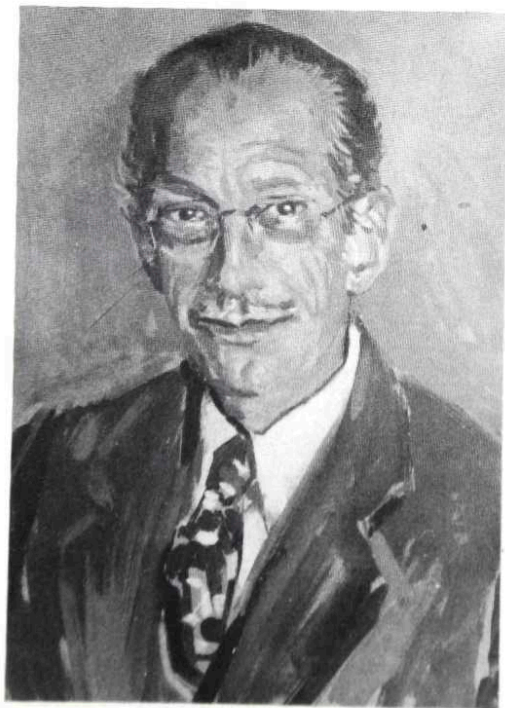


Prof. Dr. Heinrich Harms, ophthalmologist a pioneer of eye surgery and one of the first surgeons to use a Zeiss Operation Microscope.

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*Prof. Dr. Horst Wullstein, oto-
rhino-larygologist a pioneer of
E.N.T. surgery and one of
the first surgeons to use a Zeiss
Operation Microscope.*



*Prof. José I. Barraquer, ophthal-
mologist - also a pioneer in the use
of a Zeiss Operation
Microscope, and the first to incor-
porate a slit lamp.*

*Photographs 1-4: Carl Zeiss,
Oberkochen, West Germany.*