**History page: leaders in MSK radiology**

**Stanislas de Sèze, 1903-2000**

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**Abstract**

This history page is dedicated to the memory and achievements of the French rheumatologist Stanislas de Sèze whose name is connected to the so-called “de Sèze view”, which is used to evaluate the sacro-iliac joints, the lumbar and lower thoracic spine, pelvis and hip joints on a single anteroposterior radiograph.

**Keywords**

⏵de Sèze view

⏵Radiography

⏵History

**Main text**

Stanislas de Sèze (**⏵Fig. 1**) was born in Paris, France in October 19031.

One of his ancestors was Romain de Sèze, who was a lawyer defending King Louis XVI before the tribunal during the French revolution2. His father and grandfather were medical doctor and professor of medicine respectively. Therefore it was not surprising that he followed in their footsteps by entering medical school in Paris.

After his internalship, he began to practice as a hospital doctor at the age of 32.

At that time, his initial clinical interest went to neurology by carefully examining patients with sciatica who consulted him and whom he was trying to relieve by anesthetic injections. When Henri Dausset, the founding editor of the *Revue du Rhumatisme*, asked him to write an article for his journal on anesthetic infiltrations in neuralgia, his career took a turn to rheumatology. The impact of his publication was so overwhelming that Henri Dausset proposed in his will to Stanislas de Sèze to succeed him as editor-in-chief of the *Revue du Rhumatisme*3*.*

Based on his clinical observations*,* he was the first in 1939 to correlate clinical symptoms of sciatica with the presence of a disc herniation4.

From 1945 on, his career was further directed to clinical rheumatology at the Lariboisière hospital in Paris. The department he founded (also known later as the Viggo-Petersen center related to a generous private donation from Mr. and Mrs. Viggo-Petersen in 1952) had its own radiology unit, an immunology laboratory, a research unit focused on phosphocalcium metabolism and teaching facilities for students.

Also in 1945, he obtained his aggregate thesis and he became appointed Professor of the History of Medicine and Surgery in 1960 at the Faculty of Medicine in Paris and Professor of Rheumatology Clinic in 1965.

Although being a rheumatologist, he led X-ray interpretation sessions in his department every week, which was highly appreciated by his students and colleagues.

He retired from clinical work in 1975 but he continued by contributing to clinical research and teaching.

He was a very prolific writer, with more than 600 articles indexed in PubMed, mainly written in French.

His main work is *Le Traité de rhumatologie*, written in collaboration with Antoine Ryckewaert, first published by Flammarion in 1953 with several re-editions later, become the reference work in French not only for rheumatologists but also for radiologists and other musculoskeletal disciplines (**⏵Fig. 2**).

In addition to his work on sciatica, he focused particularly on the other causes of spinal pain and stiffness including degenerative disease of the spine, cancer, tuberculosis, infections, parasitosis and ankylosing spondylitis and spondylolisthesis, with a special interest on precise semiological analysis of high-quality radiographs2.

The so-called “de Sèze view” on radiography -named after him- is used to evaluate the sacro-iliac joints, the lumbar and lower thoracic spine, pelvis and hip joints on one single anteroposterior radiograph. Later, Gérard Morvan et al. promoted to use a coronal STIR sequence with large Field of View (FOV), as the equivalent Magnetic Resonance (MR) sequence of de Sèze projection as part of the lumbar spine MRI protocol : “*de Sèze Magnétique”* . This additional sequence can demonstrate lesions of the pelvis and retroperitoneum that would otherwise go undetected on routine sagittal and axial MR images of the lumbar spine3.

He served as President of the Society of Rheumatology, of the European Anti-Rheumatic League (EULAR), the *Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris* and the *Académie**de Médecine*.

For his outstanding contributions to medicine, he was awarded the prestigious Commander of the French *Légion d’honneur* (**⏵Fig. 1**).

Health problems and a forgetfulness of proper names came with age. A few weeks after hospitalization in “his” Lariboisière hospital for an acute neurological accident, he passed away on April 27, 2000.

Afbeelding met kleding, persoon, overdekt, muur

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## **Figure 1.** Professor Stanislas de Sèze as commander of the « Légion d’honneur » (used with permission from1, open licence)

Afbeelding met tekst, papier, boek, menu

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**Figure 2.** Front page of the reference work edited by de Sèze and Ryckewaert.

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