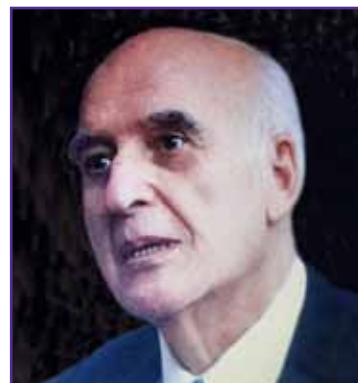


Primitivo Héctor Burgo

(1937-2020)



The professional life of Dr. Primitivo Héctor Burgo covers three spheres: healthcare, judiciary and institutional.

The roots of his orthopedic career were strengthened in the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires. He always used to recall fondly and respectfully “Don Luis” Petracchi and the Department “historic” Nurse, as when he recounted, with hilarious results, that his interview with Dr. Carlos Ottolenghi to apply for a position in his Department was orchestrated by the latter: “You just sit by the Chief’s office door, at some point he is bound to ask you what do you want.” “Don Carlos” acknowledged his value: in 1970 they published as coauthors in the journal *Clinical Orthopaedics* a paper on an original and novel technique: “Percutaneous Arthrodesis of the Ankle Joint.”

He was Chief of the Department of Orthopedics of the Hospital Muñiz, thus his healthcare activity focused and glowed on dealing with orthopedic and infection conditions. His Ph.D. dissertation on osteoarticular tuberculosis was graded “outstanding”. The clinical experience gained during his hospital years was to be crystallized in classical publications on Bacterial osteomyelitis, Osteomyelitis and bone mycosis, Knee microbial arthritis, and Osteoarticular tuberculosis, which study was awarded the “Enrique Tornú” award by the Argentinian National Academy of Medicine.

His work on the justice sphere was a true reflection of his decency and generosity toward his peers. He served as a member of the Forensic Medical Corps, under the Federal Justice System, for several years.

Pulled by his inquisitiveness on forensic aspects, he wrote on “The cause of death in the medico-legal autopsy,” work that was recognized with the “Emilio Astolfi” award from the Argentinian Society of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. Through his clear explanations, his fellow orthopedics were able to acquire core knowledge on personal and non-transferable rights (the foundation of the Informed Consent), physician-patient relationship (empathy as a way to prevent conflict) and Medical Records (evolution and complication description). Those fortunate to attend will never forget the lectures he gave as part of the “Lo actual y lo clásico” course in the Hospital Universitario Austral.

His contributions to the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology Journal should be regarded with eternal gratitude. He was a member of the Ethics Tribunal, the Sub-committee on Medico-Legal Advice, and the Sub-committee on Quality Studies on Orthopedic Implants and Prostheses. He ushered the medical community into realizing the need to extol their professional compensations through concrete means.

His contributions to the Development of the Project for the Registry of Implants and Adverse Event Report were crucial.

Eternal life and legacy

“To die does not mean to disappear.”

Death comes to us all. It leaves relatives and friends in pain.

We know it will come, but we greet her with distress all the same.

However, I firmly believe that “to die does not mean to disappear.”

Judeo-Christians and Muslims believe that after death our souls are granted a chance to live eternally in a beatific dimension, in a privileged position close to God.

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“To God we belong and to Him we shall return.”

As a Catholic, I believe Primitivo is by the Creator’s side. I can attest that he carried out a life worthy of such a privilege.

But as I understand that not all of us are believers, I support to preserve the legacy of those who die. Our bodies disappear, but our legacies may transcend our time in this plane.

I am confident that, irrespective of our beliefs, we all agree on the legacy of righteous people outliving the individuals.

Faithful husband. Exemplary father.

Upright professional. Unimpeachable forensic deputy. What a great judge he might have been!!!

I saw him as one of my father figures within my professional career, having already lost my own beloved father.

Carlos María Autorino, MD