

Dr. Héctor Esteban Patrucco (1928 -2021)



Dr. Héctor Esteban Patrucco passed away on November 16, 2021. He was born on December 22, 1928, in San Emilio, Los Toldos district. He completed his secondary education in the city of Mercedes, Buenos Aires. Later, he moved to the city of Buenos Aires where he studied medicine at the *Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires*, graduated as a physician in 1955, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1968. In 1953, he began his training as a practitioner in the renowned Orthopedics and Traumatology Service of the Institute of Surgery of Haedo (today Acute Care General Hospital “Dr. Luis Güemes”), whose head was Dr. Enos Pablo Comolli, and, in 1955, as an orthopedic surgeon. In 1981, at the age of 51, he took the position of Head of Service until his retirement in 1991. In 1998, he became a Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon at San Juan de Dios Hospital in Ramos Mejía, a position he held until 2008.

Within higher education, he served as Adjunct Professor of the First Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of the Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires.

Possessing a brilliant, restless, innovative, and progressive mind, he left his imprint on the service. He was an exemplary surgeon, he scheduled each of his surgeries, and his hands had exquisite dexterity. He promoted among his disciples the study and surgical training of excellence, encouraged discussions, respected the opinions of his subordinates, and was always attentive to the needs of patients. The nursing staff and technicians respected and loved him dearly.

His family, his profession, and his friends were his priorities.

He was actively involved within the AAOT, as he held the positions of fellow, secretary, and treasurer in different periods.

Among his publications, the one on the use of myelographic with water-soluble contrast media for the diagnosis of herniated discs (1960) stands out, a technique he had learned in Sweden. In Switzerland, together with Professor Maurice Müller, he trained in total hip arthroplasty and was a pioneer in introducing this practice in our country; in 1988, he published the results of this procedure in high congenital hip dislocation. His passion for traumatic pathology led him to present several works, among which the results of the reduction and osteosynthesis of acetabulum fractures (1968) stand out. He was a precursor in our service on the use of the external tutor for severe limb trauma; he designed an economical and practical external tutor that adapted to the economic reality of our hospital (1983).

The Orthopedics and Traumatology field has lost a master, but his legacy lives on. His influence has served to make many of his disciples feel proud to have shared his teachings and Flaco Patrucco, as his colleagues and friends called him, will accompany us forever.

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