

Dr. Gastón Maignon (1950-2023)



I met Gastón Maignon over 30 years ago. In Argentina, our subspecialty was beginning to develop. The concepts being used in our country were, in many cases, outdated, whereas in other parts of the world, there was an “explosion of interest” in shoulder pathology, as Charles Rockwood characterized it.

Gastón had just completed his training with Rockwood and Louis Bigliani. Together, we began taking the first institutional steps in the *Asociación Argentina de Cirugía de Hombro y Codo*. At the same time, we met once a month in my father’s office with the participation of Hugo Senes and Pablo Zapata, who was unfortunately disappeared. In those meetings, we shared our experiences, discussed our cases, and tried to find the best solution together. When the situation got the better of us, we would write to Charles Rockwood, knowing that it would take at least two weeks for the letter to reach him. We always received his answers and advice.

Gastón was Head of the Shoulder Team of the Orthopedic Service of Hospital Italiano, President of the *Asociación Argentina de Hombro y Codo* in 2002 and President of the *Sociedad Latinoamericana de Hombro y Codo* in 2007. During that year’s international congress in Costa do Sauipe, Brazil, he approached me with great enthusiasm, saying that Louis Bigliani had suggested he apply to host the international congress in Buenos Aires.

Together, we began the long road that led to the organization of this event. In 2010, we applied in Edinburgh and were unsuccessful. The Korean Association was the winner.

We decided to persist in our attempt. In 2013, we applied again in Osaka. We were confident, but 20 minutes into the presentation, we learned that, in addition to India, South Africa, and Australia, the United States, a candidate who had never lost, would apply. We were pleasantly surprised to win by a considerable margin as finalists against the United States.

It would be impossible to comment on all the experiences shared during the process of organizing the congress. As a result, many consider this to be the most successful event since the inaugural International Congress in 1980. After that, Gastón continued to participate actively in our meetings of the International Board of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery.

I received his phone call a few weeks ago, apologizing for being unable to attend the Advanced Shoulder Surgery Techniques Course in April due to complications with his health. I asked him to take part in the following one and he agreed. He never lost his collected nature or his optimism, and he was always eager to contribute. His dedication to the subspecialty was unwavering.

Today, I bid this great man, husband, father, and colleague farewell with sadness, admiration, and affection. His memory and legacy will live on in the *Asociación Argentina de Cirugía de Hombro y Codo*.

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How to cite this article: Obituary. Dr. Gastón Maignon (1950-2023). *Rev Asoc Argent Ortop Traumatol* 2023;88(4):464. <https://doi.org/10.15417/issn.1852-7434.2023.88.4.1773>