

Jean F. Dubousset (1936-2025)



Professor Emeritus of the Université René Descartes, Paris
Member of the Académie Nationale de Médecine, France
Member of the Académie de Chirurgie, France

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Dr. Jean F. Dubousset, an eminent professor of Orthopedics and Traumatology, who died on May 4, 2025, in Paris, France, at the age of 88, surrounded by his beloved family and friends. His professional legacy, human warmth, and unwavering commitment to his patients made him an unforgettable figure and a role model in the field of medicine.

Born in Montferrand, Auvergne, France, on November 16, 1936, Dr. Dubousset dedicated his life to medicine, specializing in orthopedic surgery. He was widely recognized for his exceptional technical skill and profound knowledge. He gained acclaim for revolutionizing the treatment of spinal deformities in children and adolescents, developing innovative techniques that not only improved clinical outcomes but also brought hope to countless young patients and their families.

I had the honor of working alongside Dr. Dubousset at Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Hospital in Paris from 1982 to 1990. That period transformed my understanding of orthopedics. I learned not only from his remarkable surgical expertise but also from his unique ability to connect with each patient. His holistic approach—combining technique with compassion—was a lasting source of inspiration.

Together with Professor Yves Cotrel, Dr. Dubousset earned global recognition for his work on scoliosis and other spinal deformities. His pioneering surgical techniques went beyond correcting deformities; they prioritized restoring the quality of life for young patients. His innovative thinking and steadfast dedication to research helped countless children and adolescents regain their health—and often, their self-esteem.

Beyond the operating room, Dr. Dubousset was a devoted teacher who shared his vast knowledge with generations of physicians around the world. He instilled in his students not only a passion for orthopedics but also a profound understanding of the importance of compassionate care. His commitment to teaching left a lasting impact, encouraging many to follow the path of integrity and dedication he exemplified.

He spent a year in the United States, working in Miami and Texas, where he contributed his expertise in pediatric orthopedics and neuroorthopedics.

Dr. Dubousset was a great friend of our country, which he visited several times. His curious and adventurous spirit even led him to Patagonia to explore why penguins do not develop scoliosis.

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A tireless advocate for research, he actively participated in numerous scientific conferences and publications. His contributions significantly advanced the treatment of skeletal deformities, and many of his insights continue to shape current medical practices.

His *curriculum vitae* is so vast that it cannot be fully captured in this tribute.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Dubousset was an extraordinary human being. His kindness, generosity, and empathy extended far beyond the medical sphere. Always ready to listen and to help, he left a deep and lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dr. Jean F. Dubousset leaves behind a legacy of dedication, a profound love for medicine, and an unwavering respect for human dignity. His influence lives on in the lives of those who, thanks to his work, found a path to healing. His memory will continue to inspire all who were touched by his life and work.

Rest in peace, dear Jean. Your legacy endures in the medical community, in orthopedic surgeons across the world, in your patients, and in every life you helped transform.

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