

# Professor Dr. Héctor F. Girardi

## A Celebration of his Life



We are thankful for the opportunity granted by the *Asociación Argentina de Ortopedia y Traumatología* to celebrate the life of our beloved father, who was President of the Association in the year 2000.

Our father was born in the town of María Susana, Province of Santa Fe, in 1934. He attended high school and university in the city of Rosario. He was married to the woman he loved, mother of his four children, only separated by death. He graduated in Medicine in 1960 in the *Universidad de Rosario* and he developed his specialty in Orthopedics and Traumatology under the mentorship of great men from Rosario such as Dr. Marottoli, Dr. Celoria and Dr. Didier (all of them former AAOT presidents).

During his public health career he was Chief of Public Health Services (*Ex Hospital de Emergencias*), *Hospital de Niños "Jose Vilela"*, and *Hospital Provincial de Rosario*. In the latter, he created the *Unidad Docente* (teaching unit), dependent on the *Universidad de Nacional de Rosario*, which he directed until his retirement. He was also Director of the *Hospital Provincial* for several years.



In the academic field, he was Associate Professor of Orthopedics in the *Hospital Provincial* from its creation to his retirement. Furthermore, he was President of the *Sociedad de Ortopedia del Litoral*, *Sociedad de Trabajo de Rosario* and, as it was mentioned before, the AAOT, an association he loved and admired since his youth. He directed the annual course of the AAOT in Rosario for years. With pride and admirable dedication he took a bus ride for the day in order to attend the meetings. In 2001, he presided the AAOT Conference, with an extraordinarily high level of participation not only from attendees but from foreign guests, mainly from the prestigious *Hospital for Special Surgery*. This was not an easy feat, considering it was only three months after the most tragic attack on American soil. In the private field he was Chief of Service at PASA Petroquímica, and President and Chief of Service at the *Sanatorio Americano* in the city.

Our father was an important member of the Rosario society, being a member of clubs with a wide trajectory such as the Jockey Club, Rotary Club, etc. He presided over the *Benefit Society* of the *Hospital Provincial* and the *Bank of Orthopedic Elements* of the Rotary Club, entities which provided great assistance those in need in the city. He was a candidate for Mayor of Rosario in the glorious restoration of democracy.

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Aside from the professional pride he inspired in us, he was the best father one can aspire to be. People described him as a gentleman, honest, fair, good, excellent husband, father, son, grandfather, brother and friend, among many others. Two of his four children followed his specialty, for it was easy to fall in love with it, inspired by his dedication, his selflessness and his never ending pursuit of knowledge.

He would always tell us that medical practice must join research, clinical experience and teaching; a precept he followed unconditionally.

Aside from the sorrow caused by his physical departure, we celebrate his life day by day, hoping that we can imitate him for the rest of our lives.

He has left us a legacy worth admiring and continuing.

Forever thankful, we carry you in our hearts.

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