

Dr. Fernando Silvio Silberman (1930-2021)



Sometimes it is easy to summarize the life of a man. In this case, it was marked by the search for knowledge, a knowledge that would alleviate the pain of others, that could be transmitted to the generations that follow and, later, by the search for goals, to achieve them, always advancing in pursuit of others further afield.

But this man loved, and surrounded himself with truly transcendent loved ones who accompanied him and who helped him achieve his work: his wife Esther Beatriz, his children Laura, Andrés, and Marcos.

Having shared more than 20 years of work with him allowed me to know his thinking that faithfully represented that of a renowned generation of doctors who left an indelible mark on Orthopedics and Traumatology, and for which I express respect and appreciation.

His medical career:

- Disciple of Dr. Atilio Risolía at the Hospital de Clínicas “José de San Martín” of the City of Buenos Aires, at the Institute of Surgical Clinic, devoting his activity to the locomotor system.
- Fellow of the Mercy Hospital of the city of Iowa, under the tutelage of Dr. Arthur Steindler, renowned orthopedist and foot surgeon, recipient of the highest honors of American Orthopedics.
- Head of the Orthopedics and Traumatology Service of the Hospital de Clínicas “José de San Martín”, in Buenos Aires.
- Consultant of the Orthopedics and Traumatology Service of the Hospital de Clínicas “José de San Martín”, Buenos Aires.
- “Luis A. Tamini” Prize laureate from the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology for best work presented at society meetings.

His university work for decades led him to be awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the School of Medicine of the National University of Buenos Aires.

He was Director of the Board of Directors of the School of Medicine of the National University of Buenos Aires.

His society work:

- President of the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Honorary Member of the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology, former president of the Argentine Congress of Orthopedics and Traumatology in 1994.
- Honorary President of the 39th Argentine Congress of Orthopedics and Traumatology in 2002, Honorary Member of the Argentine Medical Association (AMA).
- Member of the Certification Council of the National Academy of Medicine, Honorary and/or Corresponding Member of the Orthopedic Societies of Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela.
- Full Member of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT).

Dr. OSCAR VARAONA • ovaraona@intramed.net.ar  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9471-5485>

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It is worth pointing out that most of his scientific work focused on two areas. Firstly, **continuing medical education**, as he held the positions of President of the Committee of Continuing Medical Education of the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology, organizing Instruction Courses in the different provinces of Argentina and, in addition, President of the Committee of Continuing Medical Education of the SLAOT.

Secondly, **research**, in his years of work with another relevant figure such as Professor Dr. Rómulo Cabrini.

His CV includes the Research Award “Carlos E. Ottolenghi”.

- Co-founder of the Argentine Society of Osteosynthesis, Biomaterials, and Bone Grafts.
- Founder, along Dr. Mariel Itoiz, of the Master’s Degree in Osteoarticular Rehabilitation, Biomaterials, and Bone Grafts, with initial headquarters at the Hospital de Clínicas “José de San Martín”.

MASTER SURGEON OF THE ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPEDICS AND TRAUMATOLOGY, a man of kind treatment, but firm convictions, of brilliant intelligence that allowed him not only to work in the aforementioned fields with ease, but also to glimpse the future of our specialty and act accordingly. Author of several books, he gave special interest to one for students, whose foreword corresponds to Dr. Miguel Cabanela of the Mayo Clinic, on which he worked until the last years of his life.

Some may call his walk without pause in the face of the future resilience; I, on the other hand, say that it is the firm will that lights the flame of life. The philosopher said: “What is great in man is that he is a bridge and not a goal: what is lovable in man is that he is an over-going and a down-going.” However, I add, in moments when our steps falter, we will know how to find him where he is no longer.

*Dr. Oscar Varaona
Former President of the Asociación Argentina de Ortopedia y Traumatología*