

Dr. Iván Ayerza (1943-2023)



Dr. Iván Ayerza was born on November 1, 1943. He completed his primary and secondary studies at Colegio Champagnat in Buenos Aires. He studied medicine at the University of Buenos Aires, and obtained his medical degree in 1966.

He came from a family with strong medical roots and tradition. His father, a prominent orthopedist, was Chief of the Orthopedics and Traumatology Service at Hospital Fernández.

In 1967, he joined the orthopedics residency at Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires and later became Head and Instructor of Residents at the institution. He was therefore directly influenced by his teacher and mentor Carlos Ottolenghi.

In 1974, he joined Hospital Fernández, and finished his hospital activity in charge of the Spine Surgery Sector.

He was highly involved in professional societies. He was a founding member of the *Asociación Argentina de Artroscopia* (Argentine Arthroscopy Association) and an active member of the *Sociedad Argentina de Columna* (Argentine Spine Society). He exhibited exceptional performance and influence within the *Asociación Argentina de Ortopedia y Traumatología* (AAOT - Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology). He served as treasurer, vice president and president of the AAOT. Finally, he presided over the *Argentine Congress*, which was held in Salta, resuming the organization of our Association's greatest scientific event in cities in the interior of the country. He received awards from the *Asociación Argentina de Ortopedia y Traumatología* and the *Academia Nacional de Medicina* (National Academy of Medicine).

He was a man of universal culture with a strong inclination towards the arts, predominantly the opera and visual arts. His frequent trips related to his profession were always complemented by visits to centers of musical and visual arts, which honed his natural talent for painting.

He possessed the necessary characteristics of a physician: prioritizing the patient, astute observation and interpretation of the clinical examination, an intense capacity for learning and innovation, and surgical proficiency. He had a natural manual dexterity applied to surgery that distinguished him from his peers.

Perhaps his Basque heritage, which he cherished, imbued him with a passionate, dynamic spirit oriented toward noble attitudes and feelings, as well as a sense of camaraderie beyond borders. His generosity and dedication had a profound influence on the assistants and disciples who followed him in both his hospital activity and his vast and intense private practice.

He died on December 8, 2023 at the age of 80, accompanied by a strong religious conviction.

Nevertheless, for those who have accompanied him in his many years of medical practice and have received his boundless friendship, a desolate feeling remains.

I believe, however, that the many disciples he leaves behind will consider it an honor to have shared our fascinating and demanding profession with him.

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How to cite this article: Muscolo DL. Obituary. Dr. Iván Ayerza. *Rev Asoc Argent Ortop Traumatol* 2024;89(1):90. <https://doi.org/10.15417/issn.1853-7434.2024.89.1.1916>