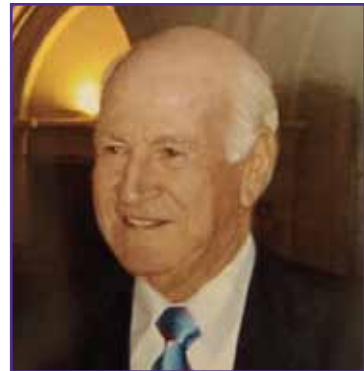


Dr. Héctor R. Malvárez (1935-2024)



Dr. Héctor R. Malvárez was born in the city of Tucumán on October 6, 1935. He earned his medical degree from the School of Medicine of the National University of Córdoba. Upon arriving in Buenos Aires, he joined the Orthopedics and Traumatology Department as a resident under the supervision of Professor Carlos E. Ottolenghi, becoming part of the inaugural group of residents at Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires.

In 1964, at the recommendation of Dr. Ottolenghi, he pursued a fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. There, he focused on the diagnosis and treatment of developmental dysplasia of the hip under the guidance of Dr. Robert Salter and on pediatric spinal deformities under the supervision of Dr. John Hall—both internationally renowned figures in pediatric orthopedics and scoliosis. Returning to Buenos Aires, Dr. Malvárez continued his career as a member of the Orthopedic Service at Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires. Together with Dr. Jorge Animoso, he became part of the first team at the Scoliosis Center of the hospital (CEHIBA). This center, established in 1970 by Dr. Nora Bloise de Napolitano—its founder and head—was the first specialized institution in Argentina dedicated to treating spinal disorders in children and adolescents. CEHIBA has operated continuously since its inception, advancing the specialty academically, scientifically, and clinically.

Dr. Malvárez succeeded Dr. Bloise as the head of the Scoliosis Sector and led the Pediatric Orthopedics Sector until his retirement in 2000. During his distinguished career, he served as President of the Argentine Society of Pediatric Orthopedics and Traumatology (SAOTI) from 1992 to 1993, and he was an active member of the Argentine Society of Scoliosis (now the Argentine Society of Spine Pathology, SAPCV) and the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology (AAOT). He was also a frequent guest lecturer at national and international courses and authored or co-authored numerous publications in both pediatric orthopedics and scoliosis.

Dr. Malvárez was a lover of golf and, above all, a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife, Sofia, his daughters, Cecilia and Lorena, and his grandchildren. On a personal note, Dr. Malvárez played a pivotal role in my professional journey. I first met him in 1979 as a resident and was later welcomed into the Scoliosis Sector in 1982, where he remained a constant source of mentorship and encouragement until his passing on Thursday, October 24, 2024. After 45 years of working together, I am left with countless shared memories and anecdotes, all marked by mutual respect. His charisma, empathy, and sociability defined him as a person and a colleague.

Today, I face the difficult task of bidding farewell to a cherished mentor and friend. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology for granting me the opportunity to express these sentiments.

Dr. Malvárez, I hope you found happiness in your life. Your legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of all who had the privilege of knowing you. Thank you for everything. Farewell, Rubén.

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