

ELÍAS HURTADO HOYO

Elias was born in Valencia in 1937, during the Spanish Civil War. After that conflict and with the fear that Spain will be part of World War II, the family decided to migrate to the Americas, arriving in Argentina in 1940. His childhood took place in the Chaco province, in a small town called Gancedo. In 1945 he was sent to Colegio del Salvador de los Jesuitas, situated in Buenos Aires, without being allowed to leave or be visited for 2 years. After finishing his high school studies, he was inclined to pursue a degree in medicine. He graduated Medical School in 1959 in the University of Buenos Aires. The following year, he received the "Title of Doctor of Medicine" with his thesis on "Lung Cancer", and his godfather was the prestigious Prof. Eduardo Ayas. For the same thesis, he also achieved the "Prize José Penna 1960" of the University of Buenos Aires, and he is awarded a gold medal. He decided to pursue a career towards surgery. He began his Career by performing the Residency in General Surgery. By competitive examination, he is quickly awarded leadership positions. From 1971 to 2005, he managed to be Chief Unit and Service of the Department of Thoracic and General Surgery of the Hospitals Durand, Argerich, Tornú and again of Durand. Under these leaderships, he conducted numerous Residency Programs and Trainings for National and Foreign Scholars. He directed the Program of Specialty in Thoracic Surgery (UBA) for 20 years from which more than 60 specialists graduated. His numerous disciples occupy high positions throughout the country and abroad. He is recognized as a Human Resources Trainer, "Trainer of Trainers". For many years he had "grandchildren disciples". From 1996 to 2001 the First Autonomous Government of Buenos Aires, invited him to be part of the government as "General Director of Health Care" and to supervise the 33 Hospitals of the City. He retired from the Public Hospital Care Service completing 48 years of service.

From a very young age, he taught at universities until reaching the position of "Professor of Surgery" in the University of Buenos Aires and in the Maimonides University. Said position could only be achieved by strict examinations. Other universities offered him other faculties to perform different roles (Univ del Aconcagua, Tucumán y del Nordeste). Likewise, the Universities of Morón (2007) and the Barceló Foundation (2009) designated him as "Doctor Honoris Causa". The University of Valparaíso (Chile) awarded him in 1996 the award "Médico Trasandino. Maestro de los Andes".

("Trans-Andean Medical Award. Master of the Andes").

In the Scientific Societies he also developed many activities and received numerous distinctions. The Asociación Argentina de Cirugía ("Argentine Association of Surgery") awarded him the "Annual Award of 1984" for his book "Axillary Thoracotomies" in which he presented the experience of a personal technique; it was incorporated in all the surgical centers of the world changing the shape of the approach towards the thorax to perform any type of operations. It also triggered the modern concept of more functional and less aggressive techniques. For this book he was also awarded the "Premio Cuatrienal a las Ciencias Médicas del Ministerio de Educación y Justicia" (1984-1988) ("Quadrennial Award for Medical Sciences of the Ministry of Education and Justice"). Since 1991 he was one of the pioneers of thoracic-endoscopic surgery in the country. He obtained the award "Premio Andrés Santas" from the Argentine Association of Surgery in 2003.

The Argentine Society of Thoracic Surgery elected Elias as its President in 1989, and in 2013 he was appointed "Master of Thoracic Surgery". For his original research on the mediastinal ganglia in Lung Cancer, he obtained the "European School of Oncology Award" of the year 2000". These investigations changed the approach towards the operations performed on these patients worldwide.

After acting in different roles for several years in the Argentine Medical Association, he was elected to be its "President" in 1998, and later, he was reelected for five more terms until 2015. He had to get through the most critical socioeconomic period in the country. He is currently the "President of Honor". In this same Association he led numerous initiatives that will be enumerated hereinafter. the Medical Recertification (CRAMA) for all specialties was founded in 1996 and Elias conducted it for 8 years; for this he created more than 50 Councils or Boards, one for each specialty. In this venture he was accompanied by almost all the medical and scientific associations of the country. Regarding the Professional Practice, he had to work with the National Government to finally achieve the presidential Vetos, on several laws and decrees, like the one referred to the "inversión de la carga de la prueba" (1991) ("Reversal of the burden of evidence"); Decree 150 (1992) on generic drugs for which the government responded by creating the ANMAT (National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technologies); the Laws of Dignified

Death, and the Reform of the new Civil Code, etc. These experiences allowed him to describe a new Human Behavior Syndrome as "Síndrome Clínico Judicial (1993)" ("Clinical Judicial Syndrome") referenced in the international literature. At the request of the National Supreme Court of Justice in 2002, he re-organized all the Medical **Experts** (COPEMEAMA) for the 8 Federal Jurisdictions. Given the success obtained, the Court itself requested to have the same done for the Experts advising directly to the Supreme Court. With other requirements, both re-organizations continue to be in full force and effect.

He had the initiative of making the First Tribute of the country in 2002 to a fighter of the Falklands War 20 years after the event; distinguishing the doctors who were in the War Front as Members of Honor of the AMA. In 2012, after 30 years of the war event, he performed the 2nd Act for the same reason, paying homage to the Health Team that was working in the Malvinas Hospital in the War Front.

He created several Awards, including the Annual Award Enrique and Ricardo Finochietto. They are currently in their 16th anniversary. The first honoree was the Acad Julio V Uriburu. Through the years he was able to reunite along with his collaborators the ashes of both brothers in the same vault in the Recoleta Cemetery.

Since 1996, he has promoted various Medical Education Programs through Computer Science (Cd Rom, satellite, Internet). For its development, he summoned specialists from all over the world. He currently leads the EDUVIRAMA project as "Director".

In 2001 he directed the "Code of Ethics for the Health Team", in which 90 experts collaborated. It is currently publishing its third edition; the last one was totally subsidized by the Aconcagua University of Mendoza. It is used as teaching material in public and private universities, in medicine and in law. It has been translated into thirteen languages. Since the introduction of the Code, he funded the TEPLAS ("Ethics Tribunal for the Health Team"), which resolved several causes. Moreover, he also created several Scientific Societies in relation to the scientific advances.

In 1993, the Foreign Chamber of Drugs awarded him with the "CAEMe Award", to the Health Care Activity. The same award was granted to Elias in 2016 by CEDIQUIFA.

Apart from his books and lectures, 80 leaders have asked him to draft the Prologue of their books, 48 of which have already been published; and two more are in the process of being published.

At an international level, he performed many activities, such as, being "Vicepresident" for 8 years of the International College of Surgeons being (1997-2005) and also as "Member Editorial Board" (2001-2010).

He received numerous academic awards such as: "Miembro Titular de la Academia Argentina de Cirugía" (1987) ("Acting Member of the Argentine Academy of Surgery"). "Miembro Correspondiente Nacional de la Academia de Ciencias Médicas de Córdoba" (2003). ("Full National Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Córdoba"). "Miembro Académico Correspondiente Extranjero de la Academia de Medicina del Paraguay" (2004) ("Full Foreign Member of the Academy of Medicine of Paraguay"). "Miembro Académico de Número de la Academia Argentina de Ética Médica (2007)" ("Full Member of the Argentine Academy of Medical Ethics"). In 2015, Elias was incorporated by the "Academie Nationale de Médecine Française" as "Membre Associé Étranger", being the 4th Argentinian, and the first Argentine surgeon invited to join at that level throughout the history of this Academy.

In the year 2001, The Ecumenical Patriarchate Greek Orthodox Archbishopric of Buenos Aires and South America distinguished him with the "Honorable Order of the Apostle Saint Paul".

He was also appointed "Extraordinary Consultant of the Argentine Army and the Central Military Hospital Cosme Argerich" (2014). In 2016 the Government of the City of Buenos Aires by Law distinguished him as "Outstanding Personality". In 2017 he received the "National and International Security Trajectory Award". In the same year he received the "FESS Award" (Foundation for the Study of Social Security). During 2018 he was designated "Illustrious President" of the Argentine Society of Medical Journalism. He chaired the Medical Association Franco Argentine (1995) and was its President of Honor in 2005. He was recognized as "Master of the Argentine Medicine (1999)." For the support given to the Societies of the Spanish Communities he was awarded twice the "Hispanic Medal" (1995 and 2003).

Also, in social organizations, he has been distinguished with hierarchical functions as being the "Vice President of the Rotary Club of Buenos Aires" in the period 2018-2019. In the 2019-2020 period he will be the "President of his Centennial".

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International awarded him the "Paul Harris Fellow 2004" Award. In the cultural field, being a Scholar in Spain for the Institute of Hispanic Culture in 1975 while training in Cardiac Surgery, he published in Madrid a humanistic book "El Hombre Eterno. Teoria del Ser". For this publication, he was invited to present the book at the Scientific and Literary Athenaeum of Madrid. He recognizes that this experience has giving him great friends for life. Walking is his favorite hobby. Elias never says NO when a sick person or a friend requires it. He has a large family. A few months ago, on September 23, 2017, he celebrated his first 80 years surrounded by his loved ones.

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