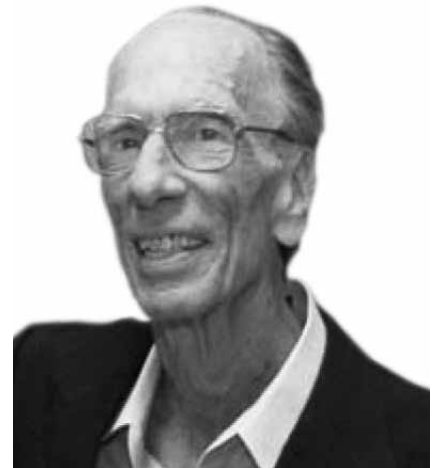


In Memoriam

Helio Waldemar Hilkner
1938-2011

On September 8, 2011, the orthopedic community lost another of its most genial members. Helio Waldemar Hilkner graduated in medicine from the Federal University of Curitiba and trained in orthopedics at the Institute of Orthopedics and Traumatology, University of São Paulo, which at that time was directed by Dr. Manlio Napoli, to whom he was a field and disciple. Helio (or “Boca”, as he was affectionately called) distinguished himself in this specialty through his vast general knowledge and, especially, because of his passion and dedication to hip surgery. He was one of the first members of the Brazilian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology (SBOT) to affiliate to the Brazilian Society of Hip Surgery (SBCQ) when it was founded.



He was the preceptor of residence at Hospital Anchieta and the Public Servants’ Hospital of São Paulo, and was the attentive supervisor and friend of many orthopedists who today are scattered across this country.

He transferred to Campinas in 1971, and soon took the position of Head of the Orthopedics Service of the Royal Portuguese Beneficence Society (Real Sociedade Portuguesa de Beneficência), where he was active until the end of his days. He was head of orthopedics, director of surgery and director of clinical medicine of this entity. In this last position, he became concerned about the weakness of young physicians when faced with legal proceedings, which they often faced without any possibility of defending themselves because of lack of legal guidance or even for financial reasons. Thus, at the age of 60 years, he decided to study law. He sat the university entrance examination, was accepted and studied at the PUCC Law School. At the end of the course, he was accepted through merit into the Brazilian Order of Attorneys (OAB). From then on, he started to act not only as an orthopedist, but also as a legal consultant to younger colleagues and, most importantly, graciously.

There was unanimity regarding his qualities as a human being! Never, during these 30 years that I spent in his company, from my time at Anchieta until his last days, did I ever hear any criticism or complaint about Helio, in terms of professional conduct or good character, or as a friend.

My friend and master of life and orthopedics has died, but he died as he always wanted to: working, surrounded by friends and studying his own disease, which he mocked and never surrendered to. Men like this aggrandize our profession and will always serve as an example for younger physicians.

Rest in peace, Helio. Your passage here will never be forgotten by your four daughters and your eternal disciples.

Jose F. Nunes
SBOT- SBCJ