



MIGUEL ÁNGEL LUCAS (1933-2026)

A gladiator of our profession

Miguel Ángel Lucas was born on February 15, 1933. He earned his medical degree in 1956 from the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine. In 1955, while serving on call as a senior intern at the Salaberry Hospital, he treated a patient with a gunshot wound to the chest. This defining moment sealed his destiny as a vascular surgeon. In 1956, he joined the Surgery Service of the Hospital Militar Central Cirujano Mayor Dr. Cosme Argerich, under the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Hugo Mercado. In 1960, he joined the cardiovascular surgery team at what was then the Policlínico Ferroviario Central. Three years later, alongside Dr. Félix Cantarovich and Dr. Roque Ruiz, he performed the first deceased-donor kidney transplant.

He became a founding member of the Argentine College of Cardiovascular Surgeons (CACCv) in April 1975.

In 1977, the Sanatorio San Patricio, where Dr. Lucas served as Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery, established a transplant program that went on to complete 200 procedures.

He served as Director of the Postgraduate Cardiovascular Surgery Residency Program at the Universidad del Salvador from 1977 to 1999. As a member of the Argentine Academy of Surgery, he presented Dr. Juan Carlos Parodi's historic first case of aortic endoprosthesis on November 28, 1990.

He served as President of the Argentine Association of Angiology and Cardiovascular Surgery and the CACCv Evaluation Board from 2000 to 2005, and Director of the *Argentine Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery* from 2005 to 2012. He was also a member of the Editorial Board of several prestigious journals, including the *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, the *International Journal of Vascular Surgery*, the *Anales de Cirugía Vascular*, the *Archivos de Cirugía Vascular*, and the *Actas Cardiovasculares*.

A passionate supporter of Club Atlético Huracán, he shared his life with María Teresa, "Chiquita", and was a devoted father to Stella Maris, Miguel Ángel, Héctor, and Luis Fernando.

Dr. Lucas represented our country globally through his involvement with the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery. He was a master mentor to hundreds of renowned surgeons, an advisor to the younger generations, an

undisputed driving force behind the advancements in our specialty, and the *alma mater* of the CACCV in its pursuit of excellence—rigorous in his judgments, yet deeply kind to his pupils.

In his 2005 book, *Anecdotario cardiovascular* (Cardiovascular Anecdotes), he gifted us countless stories featuring almost all the leading figures of cardiovascular surgery, compelling us to carry forward their legacy. Distant from mere protocol and formality, through his unshakeable faith, he helped us grow, forced us to believe, and showed us the path: selflessness, commitment, responsibility, and, above all, unconditional love for one's neighbor and for the simpler things in life.

Miguel Ángel, this is my humble and deeply emotional tribute. That brilliant generation of gladiators is fading, but it does so in peace. We carry on your fight.

We shall not yield, not even in defeat!

Dr. Juan Esteban Paolini