Professor Henri Bensahel (1928–2009)

Shlomo Wientroub

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It is with great sorrow that I have to announce the untimely death of my dear friend and colleague, Professor Henri Bensahel. Professor Bensahel's generous heart failed him and he passed away, on 25 January. He will be sorely missed by his loving wife and children.

Professor Bensahel had dedicated his life to the welfare of others. He was born in Casablanca, to a warm and loving family blessed with strong moral values.

Early in his boyhood he showed signs of academic curiosity which led him to be a prominent student, majoring in physics, chemistry and biology. But most of all he felt the call of Medicine, and he engaged in what he prized most, the enhancing of quality of lives. He

graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris in 1957.

His love of children made him choose Pediatric Orthopaedics as specialty. He soon became Chief resident, then Assistant and then Head of Pediatric Orthopaedics in Bretonneau Hospital in 1972, and later, Head of Pediatric Orthopaedics of the Robert Debre Hospital, in Paris.

In 1982 he was promoted Full Professor of Pediatric Orthopaedics.

Professor Bensahel was the Co-founder of the French Society of Pediatric Orthopaedics.

He was the founder of numerous international Societies where he held important positions such as: President of EPOS, President of IFPOS, Editor of JPOB, founder of IPOTT, Editor in Chief of JCOR as well as Chairman of the International Clubfoot Study Group.

Throughout his outstanding career he was awarded honorary membership in numerous national and international societies and was conferred esteemed awards culminating with EPOS' most prestigious Maximis Meritis medal for 2006, bestowed upon members of the international pediatric orthopaedic community in recognition for their making it their life-work to improve children's quality of life.

Henri Bensahel traveled a lot, carrying the torch of Pediatric Orthopaedics all over the world and sharing his expertise with his colleagues and his students for the benefit of children worldwide.

But above all, Henri Bensahel, the man and the exemplary husband and father, loved to be surrounded by his family, his own loving children and grandchildren....

We deeply mourn his death and extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Michelle and to the family. I am sure they will pass on the values learned from him to many a generation to come.

S. Wientroub (✉)
Dana Children's Hospital, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center,
Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University,
Tel Aviv, Israel
e-mail: shlomowi@tasmc.health.gov.il