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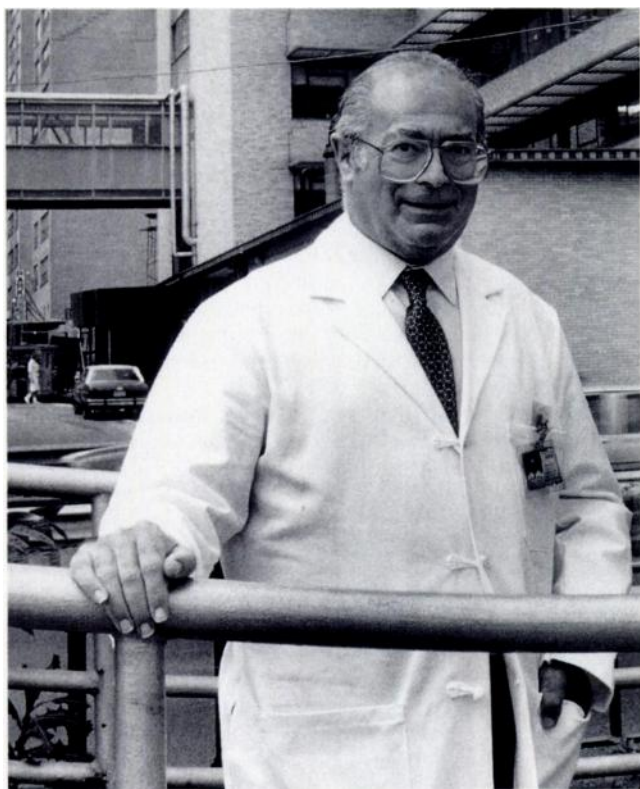
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BERNARD JACOBS, M.D.
1924-1992

Bernard Jacobs, an internationally known orthopaedic surgeon and clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at Cornell University Medical College, died on April 19, 1992, at the age of sixty-eight years. He had practiced orthopaedic surgery until he became disabled, in 1990.

Bernard Jacobs was born in London, where he received his early surgical training, graduating from the University College Hospital Medical School in 1948. After working with the National Health Service for two years, Dr. Jacobs became disenchanted and, in 1950, he decided to emigrate to the United States by way of Montreal. In Montreal, he was appointed a visiting fellow to Professor Wilder Penfield at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Later that year, he moved to New York, where he was a surgical resident for three years.

In 1953, Dr. Jacobs received a request that he enlist in the United States Army Reserve. During the Korean War, he was assigned to the United States Army Medical School in San Antonio, Texas. Although scheduled to be sent to Korea, he was instead, at the last minute, dispatched to Trieste, Italy, to join a contingent of United Nations peacekeeping forces that were attempting to mediate a conflict between the Italians and the Yugoslavians, who were seeking control of Trieste. There, Dr. Jacobs was assigned to care for orthopaedic patients and was required to travel monthly to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to treat members of the United States Military Mission. Also as part of his United Nations service, he was liaison to the British Hospital in Trieste.

When the conflict over Trieste had been settled, Dr. Jacobs was transferred to Livorno, Italy, where he was assigned by United States Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce to lead a convoy of trucks carrying

medications, food, and blankets to flood victims in Salerno. After a brief stay in Livorno, he was transferred to a large United States Army Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, where he served as acting Chief of Orthopaedics for eighteen months. It was in Frankfurt that he became a United States citizen.

After being discharged from the army in 1955, Dr. Jacobs became an orthopaedic surgical resident at The Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, completing his training in 1959. During this time, he served as a fellow for one year on the Bone-Tumor Service at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. While in residency training, he was fortunate to have, as one of his teachers, the renowned neurosurgeon Professor Thomas Hoen. In 1959, Dr. Hoen and Dr. Jacobs introduced a new operative technique, first described by Dr. Ralph Cloward: a combined arthrodesis through an anterior approach for the treatment of cervical disc disease.

In 1962, Dr. Jacobs was appointed Chief of Orthopaedics at the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital, an institution with a lengthy affiliation with The Hospital for Special Surgery. His other hospital appointments included Chief of the Foot Disorder Clinic at The Hospital for Special Surgery.

In 1973, Dr. Jacobs and colleagues founded the Cervical Spine Research Society. In addition, Dr. Jacobs was a member of the International Lumbar Spine Society, the Intradiscal Therapy Society, and the North American Spine Society. Also in 1973, he was appointed Chairman of the Orthopaedic Section of the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York State Medical Society. He served as President of the Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 1977 and was elected Chairman of the Board of Councillors of The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 1979. A fellow of The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Orthopaedic Association, American College of Surgeons, International Society of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, and New York Rheumatism Association, Dr. Jacobs served as a consultant to the United Nations for more than twenty years. He was elected to the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons in 1981.

In 1983, Dr. Jacobs was appointed Chief of the Spine Service at The Hospital for Special Surgery. During that same year, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of chymopapain for injection into ruptured lumbar discs. Working closely with fellow neuro-radiologists, Dr. Jacobs was placed in charge of overseeing the safe use of chymopapain at the hospital.

In addition to his interest in spinal disorders, Dr. Jacobs was internationally known for investigation into the natural history and effects of steroids and alcoholism on bone disease. He was particularly interested in reforming the Workers' Compensation system as well as the Medical Legal Liability Complex to provide better health care, and his work in both areas was published widely.

As an attending orthopaedic surgeon in New York City, his life centered around providing the best care to all of his patients. He often accepted the challenge and responsibility of treating patients who had been referred to him from all over the world for complex problems. His success can be measured by the respect, love, and devotion bestowed on him by his patients.

In addition to his wife, Ingrid, Dr. Jacobs is survived by a son, Mark, of Washington; a daughter, Karen Lauder, of New York; and a granddaughter, Rachel J. Lauder. A Bernard Jacobs Fund and Fellowship in Spinal Research has been established at The Hospital for Special Surgery.

D. B. L.