



# 2018 Dedication: Marvin E. Steinberg, M.D.

By David R. Steinberg, M.D.



It is a great honor to dedicate the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal to Dr. Marvin E Steinberg, who has been a pillar of the local and international orthopedic communities, and a leader and staunch supporter of our Department for over fifty years.

The son of Russian immigrants, Marvin was born and raised in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts before returning to Central New Jersey to matriculate at Princeton University. After graduating in 1954, he attended medical school, followed by internship, at the University of Pennsylvania. It was during this time that he married Delores, followed 2 years later by the birth of their first son, David. After training for 1 year in a general surgery residency at Tufts University Medical Center in Boston, Marvin returned with his family to complete his orthopedic residency training at Penn. From 1963-1964, he was a Fulbright Scholar at Worcester College, Oxford University and simultaneously underwent fellowship training with Professor Josep Trueta at the Nuffield Orthopedic Centre in Oxford. After living for almost a year in England, Marvin & Delores took their now 3 young children to western Europe behind the "Iron Curtain" to communist Poland & Russia, before returning to Philadelphia.

Marvin was asked to join the faculty of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Penn by Dr. Edgar Ralston, and eventually became the Director of the Research Laboratory. His research interests included osteoporosis, arthritis, electrical properties of bone, and osteonecrosis. Although he started out performing general orthopaedic surgery, Marvin quickly became a world-renowned expert in hip pathology and joint reconstruction. His many publications and presentations led to his promotions to Associate Professor and then Full Professor in 1980. He has since authored over 195 peer-reviewed publications and given 300 national and international presentations. He has been an editorial consultant and reviewer for numerous medical and orthopaedic journals, and served as Associate Editor for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. Marvin has been involved with local, national and international societies. He was a founding member and later President of the Eastern Orthopaedic Association. He has served as President of both the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Societies. He is one of the only non-rheumatologists to have served as President of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. He is an active member and past chairman of the Girdlestone Society.

One might not be aware of these and many other accomplishments, for Marvin Steinberg is a selfless and humble individual. He has edited two textbooks on Disorders of the Hip and Revision Total Hip Arthroplasty. He is an inventor: he developed a pneumatic power impactor for removing cement during revision arthroplasty (the "Steinberg Revision

System"). He is considered one of the world's experts on osteonecrosis of the femoral head - he was on the forefront of advances in treatment and diagnosis of this condition. He developed a classification system for avascular necrosis that is both comprehensive and yet practical; while Marvin refers to it as the "University of Pennsylvania System," everywhere else it is referred to as the "Steinberg Classification System."

Marvin Steinberg's loyalty and love for Penn Orthopaedics has been demonstrated by his dedication and service to our Department. He was Director of both the Hip Clinic and the Joint Reconstruction Center, served as Vice Chairman from 1977 to 2000, and was both Acting and Interim Department Chairman. He has been a strong advocate for our Department, acting as sage counsel to those Chairmen who have served during Marvin's tenure at Penn. At the same time, he has been there for his colleagues, residents and staff as the Department has grown over the years. For them he has been a sounding board, a purveyor of wisdom, and a moral anchor. He has been a role model for me, and for countless other medical students, residents, fellows and orthopedists. Although Marvin became Professor Emeritus and retired from clinical practice sixteen years ago, his passion for orthopaedics did not abate. He continues to come in to work every week, still writing papers and acting as a consultant reviewer for many publications, including the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. He still spends time with medical students, teaching his clinical acumen, patient advocacy, and deep-seated ethics. He still attends conferences and Grand Rounds, imparting his knowledge and wisdom to those who listen.

As dedicated as he has been to orthopedics and to Penn, Marvin Steinberg has been equally dedicated to his wife, Delores, and his family. As children, we would routinely eat dinners at 9 PM, so we could share stories with our father, who had just come home from a long day at the hospital. He had the same routine every weekend: after spending Saturday morning at work, my dad would come home for a late lunch, before taking me on errands to the hardware store, followed by a game of catch in the front yard. On Sundays, mom and dad would take my three siblings and me on day trips. Every August he would take a four-week vacation, spending it with the family at the Jersey shore. In retirement, Marvin and Delores continue to spend time with their four children (David, Jim, Susan and Julie) and their spouses, their 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

In conclusion, Marvin has been a beacon of wisdom for the department over his long and enduring tenure at Penn. His innumerable accomplishments, devotion to family, and tireless commitment to education make him deserving of this dedication. Through innovation that continues to provide relief to the ailing and leadership that continues to inspire

the young, he has changed the face of modern orthopaedics forever. Many years of trainees have benefited from Marvin's clinical intuition, sound judgment, and vast experience. They

continue to disseminate his knowledge and build upon his achievements, enriching a legacy that will last for many generations to come.



Marvin Steinberg with his son David.



Marvin Steinberg with his wife Delores