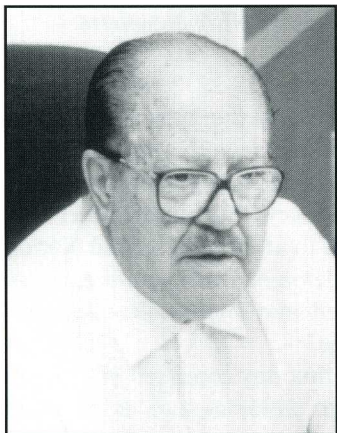


## IN MEMORIAM

Professor Mario Degni, M.D.



1911-1996

Lymphology lost another pioneer when Mario Degni died on August 6, 1996. Born in Santo André, a state of São Paulo, Brazil, on December 5, 1911, Mario Degni received an M.D. in 1937 at the University of São Paulo. At that same institution, he was trained as a general surgeon by Drs. Benedito Montenegro, Edmundo Vas Concelos, and Eurico Silva Bastos. He was appointed Professor of Surgery in Porto Alegre in 1948 and later in 1965 became Dean of Campinas University. Degni was a founder and also the first President of the Brazilian Society of Angiology and Vascular Surgery and was editor of the *Journal of Angiology and Vascular Surgery*. In 1959, he developed the first needle to facilitate the performance of a lymphatic venous anastomosis followed later by techniques for lymph-nodal venous anastomosis. Over the years, he developed

more than 16 films and videotapes about surgical techniques that have been published in 95 foreign medical journals with 25 new original operative ideas. For 40 years, he taught more than 1700 physicians about vascular surgery and in particular peripheral venous disease, portal hypertension and especially about lymphatic-venous and other lymphatic operations for the treatment of peripheral lymphedema. He was widely acclaimed as one of the originators of lymphatic microsurgery. To associate and live with Degni was a privilege as one learned extensively, was stimulated and elevated by his indefatigable, optimistic spirit not only regarding the art and science of medicine but also in the humanities and in the history of development of ideas. He demonstrated how to defend one's point of view vigorously and with good purpose since he usually was proven right. He built for himself an enviable international reputation by his imaginative research on the lymphatic system and particularly in lymphatic microsurgery. For me, it has been a great pleasure and privilege to watch the success and acclaim of Degni's operations done throughout the world and along with all lymphologists, I am deeply saddened and humbled by the thought that Mario Degni is no longer with us.

**Prof. Rubens C. Mayall, M.D.**  
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