Maximo Deysine (1931–2009)

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It is with great sadness that the American Hernia Society reports the passing of one of its founding members and past presidents, Maximo Deysine, on 20 November 2009. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Max was a graduate of the University of Buenos Aires (college and medical school) and undertook his surgical training at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut—a Yale affiliated program—and at Bellevue Hospital in New York, becoming board-certified by both the American Board of Surgery and the Board of Thoracic Surgery. Following his training, he joined the faculty in Surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, becoming Professor of Surgery in 1976. In 1977, he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery of the Jewish Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn and Professor of Surgery at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center. He

moved his affiliation to SUNY, Stony Brook in 1980, where he remained for the rest of his career. During this time, his practice was located primarily at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre, New York, since 1983, and at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, New York, since 1988.

Beginning in the late 1980s, Dr. Deysine, who was broadly grounded in General Surgery, with a special interest in sepsis, began to focus his attention, both clinically and academically, on the problems of abdominal wall herniation. He was an early pioneer in the application of laparoscopic techniques to ventral hernia repair, and in 1997 joined with colleagues with a similar interest in hernias to found the American Hernia Society. He served on the Board of Directors from 1997 until his recent death, holding the positions of Membership Chair from 2001 to 2003, Secretary/Treasurer in 2004, President elect in 2005 and President in 2006. He joined the editorial board of the journal *Hernia* in 2000 and had served continuously since then.

Failing health led Max to curtail his clinical activities in July 2005, but he continued an active role in surgical teaching for Stony Brook students at Winthrop and in mentoring surgical papers until just before his final illness. This included a presentation on lethal Fournier's gangrene following inguinal herniorrhaphy at the Berlin meeting in September 2009. That Max appeared so energetic at the Berlin meeting, advocating once again for the merits of added recognition and training for Herniologists makes his passing seem all the more untimely. We will miss his enthusiasm, his breadth of knowledge, his dedication and grace.

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