

Historical Article

Ary Frauzino - A pioneer in cancer teaching and treatment in Brazil

"Do you want to have a period of training in Cancer?" With this question began my course in the old Cancer Hospital, today National Cancer Institute (INCA), as well as my friendship with and, over all, my admiration and respect for doctor Ary Frauzino, a pioneer in oncologic surgery in Brazil and one of its more illustrious examples.

A group colleague from the old National School of Medicine of Praia Vermelha that would go to serve as apprentice in London, studying DNA and virus, at that time serving as apprentice in the Cancer Hospital was the one who asked me this question.

"I obviously accepted immediately!"

After Carnival, in the first years of the 60's, I talked to the Head of the old Upper Abdomen Section, Doctor Luis Carlos de Oliveira Júnior, who assigned me the observation of a surgery made by Doctor Ary Frauzino. It was an exploration of bile ducts. What an honor! What a fascination seeing him in action! An ecstasy soon interrupted by the words pronounced by doctor Ary, which, I inferred at the time, translated his rigorous respect for the surgical environment: "Go to the corner. Do not move anything. Say nothing. Breathe low." Doctor Ary Frauzino started in the Public Service acting as surgeon in the Hospital of Public Officials of the State of Rio de Janeiro. His commitment to oncologic patients and, over all, the results he obtained, opposing to false beliefs of the time (patient out of therapeutic reach could be converted into carriers of controlled illnesses), warranted him the invitation to be surgeon-staff of the Cancer National Service.

Coming from the General Polyclinic of Rio de Janeiro, where he worked in the Service of Professor Mem Xavier da Silveira, he acted in the area of head and neck surgery, carrying through radi-

cal cervical emptyings with a "cold bistoury", a non-conventional surgical technique at the time. In the Hospital of Public Officials he was also affiliated to the Service of Gynecology that included the sub-section of Mastology. In this scene, he executed surgeries like Wertheim-Meiggs' and radical mastectomies, exceptions to the surgical ideas of that time.

He would also be director of the old Hospital of Broadcasters, today State Institute of Cardiology, in Humaitá, Rio de Janeiro. There, he began the accomplishment of his great dream: the hepatic and bile ducts cancer surgery. In the Cancer Hospital, he practiced, together with doctor Luiz Carlos de Oliveira Júnior and doctor Sá Fortes Pinheiro, Brazil's first ruled hepatectomies, result of their studies of hepatic anatomy and physiology.



Figure 1 - In foot, of the left for the right: Dr. Geraldo Sá, Mrs. Maria Helena, Dr. José Ramos Pedrosa, Dr. Evaldo Abreu. Seating, of the left for right: Dr. Ary frauzino, Dr. Emilson

I myself cannot forget the long nights in the Forensic Medical Institute of Rio de Janeiro and the afternoons in the Medical School, where doctor Ary took me, her inseparable medical instrumentist, Ms. Geralda and his surgical instruments. We carried through hepatectomies, his preferred task, esophagectomies and gastroduodenalpancreatectomies. Years later, we would repeat these operations in the Veterinary Medicine School of the Federal Agricultural University of Rio de Janeiro, where doctor Ary was the Chair of Surgical Techniques. This university position, I suppose, was exclusively due to his incessant effort for developing new and challenging surgical techniques, as well as consolidating and improving the traditional ones. For me and for many of those who surrounded him, he was an example and the biggest inspiration in surgery at that time. We were in the presence of a pioneer.

Not always was the defense he made of his ideas of radical surgeries understood. Many times, he has been fought without criteria. But his humanist practice of interning patients in his own hospital, Saint Monique's Clinic, for free, many times resulting in his own economic loss, shows another quality the great doctors have: compassion.

His aggregating capacity, his extraordinary inventiveness and ability, influenced all surgeons of the time. Today, thanks to the immeasurable evolution of anesthesia and intensive medicine, the oncologic surgeries we carried through in the gone 60's and 70's seem obvious, but they really



Figure 2 - Ary Frauzino

were true battles, wars won against death and cancer. We mounted "mini ICUs" on the bedside. We invented, having doctor Ary in the head, infusion pumps for intra-arterial chemotherapy, many times hung in the ceilings of the rooms and infirmaries. The old Master was a pioneer of regional intra-arterial chemotherapy!

All of us, members of the INCA are his disciples. The majority of the surgeons of Rio de Janeiro had suffered some surgical influence of his studies and techniques in Oncology. Think about his concern with Medical Residence. He was the creator of the Medical Residence in the Cancer Hospital. He was a man and a surgeon directed to the development of cancer treatment and surgery.

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In January 1971, I knew a great surgeon, in my view one of the greatest, a great man, a professor, an educator, an austere father. That date, I was entering the Medical Residence of INCA, and well before this I had heard many histories and facts regarding his great accomplishments in oncologic surgery. He was really what we may call a complete surgeon, for he congregated qualities as ability, security, courage, discipline, self-overcoming and humanism.

As resident doctor of INCA, I can affirm that this surgeon was one of my better tutors: a hard man, of a strong temper, demanding, perfectionist, but a man who cried when he discoursed during homages made him by resident groups.

This surgeon who taught and trained many young oncologic surgeons from the north to the south of this country was called Ary Frauzino, born in Corumbáiba, Goiás, in July 14, 1917, graduated in Medicine in 1945, in the National Medicine School. After his graduation, he entered the political career, having been elected Representative of the State of Goiás; and only at the end of the term did his interest for surgery relit, and he settled definitively in Rio de Janeiro.

ro, going to work at one of Brazil's most important services of surgery, commanded by Professor Fernando Paulino. His remarkable surgical performance made him noted and warranted him the admiration of Professor Paulino. In 1953, he was invited to integrate the staff of surgeons of the Section of Upper Abdomen Surgery, a service he began directing in 1964. It was during his term that I knew him. How unforgettable the scientific meetings he insisted in directing from beginning to end, in Saturday mornings, and that attracted doctors of all the services of surgery from Rio de Janeiro and other states!

In 1980, doctor Ary Frauzino was appointed General Director of INCA, a position he took charge of brilliantly up to 1985, and amongst his deeds it is of note his fight for the establishment of a foundation that could give technical and financial support to the Institution. This

foundation would be possible only in 1991, during the term of the doctor Marcos Moraes, and it was given his name (Ary Frauzino Foundation for Cancer Research and Combat), in memory to his efforts, his pioneerism and futurist vision.

Thus, because of all his deeds as an oncologist surgeon, the dedicated love to the Institution (INCA), that undoubtedly made it grow, the responsibility he had regarding the resident doctors, the pleasure to always teach, his excellent performance in administrative positions, I want to testify how great a man and a surgeon doctor Ary Frauzino was, and make possible that all knew him as I did: simply as an example for national surgery.

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