An important orthopedist in Rio de Janeiro who I first met in the middle of last century, when he had not yet studied medicine, has passed away: Mauricio Barbosa Menandro.

He was born in Rezende, RJ, on April 5, 1931, and he died in Rio de Janeiro, on June 2, 2010. He was admired by all who knew him, and this record is merited by what he produced and by his principled conduct in his professional life.

We got to know each other in 1954. I had already studied medicine and he was still at high school; we were colleagues in the administrative sector of the former Iapi. From the outset, our relationship was good and very agreeable, and after concluding the medical course, we worked together on several occasions. Our long relationship puts me in a position to recall, albeit with possible errors, his distinguished professional path, which resulted in profound friendship.

Mauricio studied at the National Medical School of Praia Vermelha. He did his Residency at the Orthopedics Service of Arnaldo Bomfim and trained in Hand Surgery at the Souza Aguiar Municipal Hospital under Danilo Gonçalves, who was one of the pioneers of this specialty and one of the founders of the Brazilian Society of Hand Surgery (SBCM).

Some of the notable orthopedists of that time worked at this service, while I was one of the young assistants. After being bureaucrats at the former Iapi, we were together as physicians.

Guided by Danilo, he went to England and worked there for two years under the supervision of E.A. Nicoll, in Mansfield. To support himself, he had to work and, through Nicoll’s influence, he was able to work as a Senior House Officer and gained enough funds to support a couple. He did not hesitate: his beloved fiancée had stayed behind in Brazil and they got married through granting power of attorney. It was the right decision for the couple: they were happy and had three greatly loved daughters.

When he came back from England, we went to work as the Head of Clinical Medicine at the Orthopedics Service of Danilo Gonçalves, at the Souza Aguiar Hospital, which had an excellent Traumatology sector with great prestige throughout the State. The residents who trained there followed a rigorously ethical training program in which Hand Surgery stood out; it was still performed by orthopedists and plastic surgeons.

He was invited to lecture in Orthopedics at the Taubaté School of Medicine, in the State of São Paulo. He stayed there from 1974 to 1977, and only went back to Rio for family reasons. He was successful, honored by his peers and admired by his students; he was the Patron of the 1976 year group.

He returned to Rio de Janeiro as the Head of the Orthopedics Service at Hospital Barata Ribeiro, which was founded in the 1940s and was a traditional center for pediatric surgery and orthopedics, which were specialties attributed to orthopedists at that time. In 1978, Mauricio found that it was a hospital with spe-
Cialties of greater modernity: orthopedics and plastic surgery. Following the standards that he had observed in England, he achieved great success during his time there as Head. The service grew in quality and produced more. The residents learned much through his interest in teaching and training, with ethical values always at the forefront.

He remained at this hospital until he took retirement through length of service within the municipal career. Since he also had a link to the Ministry of Health, he worked at the Hospital of Traumatology and Orthopedics (HTO) until 1992. There, he collaborated with L. Turqueto to create the Knee Surgery Sector.

Mauricio had great interest in pediatric orthopedics at Hospital Barata Ribeiro, where I also worked with him. Some of the pathological conditions that were treated with great frequency were: congenital hip dislocation; discrepancy, angling and deformity in the lower limbs; surgical pathological conditions in the upper limbs; and osteoarticular infections. He was one of the first in Brazil to start to treat femoral neck fractures using sliding pins, while he was working in Taubaté.

He published and presented many studies in medical journals and at congresses. I will highlight an article published in the Revista Brasileira de Ortopedia, in 1976: "A ‘Guerra’ nas estradas” [The ‘war’ on the highways], because in this, he pointed out problems and failings that, years later, were responsible for a tragedy, mentioned below, that affected his family.

He was proud of the residents at the services in which he worked. I will highlight some of them, who occupied or still occupy important positions: Rodrigo Prata Rocha, who replaced him in Taubaté; Nelson Franco Filho, professor in Taubaté and former Presidente of SBCQ; Flavio Silveira, former Director of Hospital Barata Ribeiro and other municipal hospital, who was an important hospital administrator; Luiz Antonio M. dos Santos, Head of the Orthopedics Service at Hospital Barata Ribeiro; and Idemar M. de Palma, a renowned knee surgeon. My memory fails me regarding others who he also mentioned.

In 1993, he was invited by the Health Secretary of his native municipality to create an emergency serviced in the city, and he called on me to help him. Thus, we worked together again. The building was already there, and he organized and set up an emergency hospital of good standard. After the inauguration of the Hospital, which continues to provide good services to the population, we directed this unit for some time.

As well as being a good professional, he liked to make the most of life at his refuge in Capelinha, a pleasant and beautiful condominium in Rezende, where he liked to play volleyball at a club for sports and leisure that had been created by his neighbors and family. Friends were frequently invited to participate in the happiness of the Menandro family.

He had a long final illness. To placed on the record for his family, who he loved so much, that I esteem and am grateful for the kindness with which he always treated me, is an obligation that I fulfill with great emotion: to Heloisa, his wife for more than 40 years, his adored daughters Geisa and Patrícia, and Adriana who was the victim of fatally being run over some years ago. Failings indicated by her father, in the study mentioned above, were the causes of her loss: there was incompetence, cowardice, impunity of the driver responsible for it, and also deficiency in the emergency services.

He was an important orthopedist: studious, hard-working, competent and honest. He will be remembered for a long time by colleagues and friends in many parts of Brazil, and by the countless residents that he trained.

Goodbye Mauricio Barbosa Menandro.

Almir J. Pereira