

## The birth of a State College of Surgeons, history of the Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, A.C.

*El nacimiento de un Colegio Estatal de Cirujanos, historia del Colegio Médico de Especialistas en Cirugía General del Estado de Michoacán, A.C.*

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### Keywords:

history, college,  
general surgeons,  
general surgery.

### Palabras clave:

historia, colegio,  
cirujanos generales,  
cirugía general.

### ABSTRACT

The Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, A.C. has the antecedent that more than 50 years ago, a group of great master surgeons from Michoacán formed the “College of Surgeons of Michoacán” whose members were general practitioners and specialists in various branches; however, the general surgeons of Michoacán did not have a legally constituted college, so 26 years ago a group of eight general surgeons founded the Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, A.C. However, due to the Law of Professions of the State of Michoacán, they could not grant us the corresponding registration, until 2016 when the Law of Professions in the State of Michoacán was modified. They registered us to affiliate with the Mexican Federation of Colleges of General Surgery, A.C.

### RESUMEN

*El Colegio Médico de Especialistas en Cirugía General del Estado de Michoacán, A.C. tiene el antecedente que, hace más de 50 años un grupo de grandes maestros médicos cirujanos originarios del estado formaron el “Colegio de Cirujanos de Michoacán” cuyos integrantes eran médicos generales y especialistas de diversas ramas. Sin embargo, los cirujanos generales de Michoacán no tenían un colegio legalmente constituido, por lo que hace 26 años un grupo de ocho cirujanos generales fundaron el Colegio Médico de Especialistas en Cirugía General del Estado de Michoacán, A.C. No obstante, debido a la Ley de Profesiones del Estado de Michoacán no les podían otorgar el registro correspondiente, hasta que en el año de 2016 se modificó esta ley y les otorgaron el registro que permitió afiliarse a la Federación Mexicana de Colegios de Cirugía General, A.C.*

### INTRODUCTION

In the state of Michoacan, for many decades, general surgeons met with various surgical specialists around a “College of Surgeons of Michoacán” that lacked official registration by an old Law of Professions that did not allow the registration of a new college. Twenty-six years ago, we founded the “*Colegio Médico de Especialistas en Cirugía General del Estado de Michoacán, A.C.*”, a group of eight general surgeons from Michoacán,

with Dr. Javier Carrillo-Silva as president (*Figure 1*); however, we were able to obtain the registration before professions until the law changed, twenty years later, with which the affiliation to the *Federación Mexicana de Colegios de Especialistas en Cirugía General A.C.* (FMCECC) was obtained.

As a background of the college, that great master surgeons from Michoacán more than fifty years ago were concerned about trying to have an organization that grouped surgeons with the sole purpose of sharing knowledge

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Received: 06/12/2022  
Accepted: 05/02/2023



**How to cite:** Carrillo-Silva J. The birth of a State College of Surgeons, history of the Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, A.C. *Cir Gen.* 2023; 45 (2): 120-124. <https://dx.doi.org/10.35366/111515>

and experiences, forming the “*Colegio de Cirujanos de Michoacán*”. However, the members were both general practitioners and physicians of various specialties such as general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, obstetricians, and gynecologists, and other. Many of them are already deceased and other fellow surgeons, including myself, participated in the activities of this group with great enthusiasm, either as speakers or assistants, and even congresses were organized with the participation of the Mexican Association of General Surgery, both in the capital Morelia and in various cities of our state of Michoacán. All this work was developed for a little more than half a century, regardless of not having an official registration by the Directorate of Professions of the State of Michoacán; by virtue of the fact that the law dating back to 1948 only allowed the existence of two colleges per profession in the state of Michoacán and during that time only two associations were officially recognized, which were the Medical College of Ciudad Hidalgo and the Medical College of Michoacán. Even so, we continued to gather around this “College of Surgeons of Michoacán” that at the end of the road and for the same reason, they were forced to change the name of “College” to “Association”: all of us who participated and lived this old college consider it as the father of our current college.



*Figure 1: Dr. Javier Carrillo Silva, FACS.*

In 1973, the Mexican Association of General Surgery A.C. (AMCG), a national organization that brings together all general surgeons in the country, and later the Mexican Federation of Colleges of Specialists in General Surgery A.C., which brings together all the colleges in the country and groups all the colleges of the country were founded. But the general surgeons of Michoacán did not have a legally constituted college to affiliate to this federation. So, 26 years ago and after attending a congress in the city of Patzcuaro, Michoacán where we exchanged views with Dr. Humberto Arenas Marquez, at that time vice president of the AMCG, about the conformation of the colleges in the country, persuaded me to found the college composed exclusively of general surgeons, so we could be an Incorporated Society of the AMCG (remember that there was not yet the Mexican Federation of Colleges of General Surgery), so I took on the task of gathering the general surgeons who wished to form the new college and thus a group of eight general surgeons legally formalized the founding of the Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, A.C. before a notary public and with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The first board of directors was composed as follows: president Dr. Javier Carrillo-Silva, vice president Dr. Luis Tapia-Amezcuca, secretary Dr. Adán Lachino-Martínez (deceased), assistant secretary Dr. Arturo Villanueva-Chávez, treasurer Dr. Julio Villeda-Lemus, pro-treasurer Dr. Julio César Moreno-Sánchez, and members Dr. Luis Felipe Maciel Moreno and Dr. Juan Sergio Pérez Zuno.

The AMCG issued us a certificate of incorporation in November 1996. However, due to the Law of Professions of the State of Michoacán, which had governed us since the forties, they could not grant us the corresponding registration, so we stopped attending the AMCG meetings. Therefore, this deed was kept for twenty long years! In 2016, fortunately, the Law of Professions in the State of Michoacán was modified. Finally, the important part of those changes was that the power was added to have the legal consent to register two colleges per specialty.

It is also convenient to mention that Dr. Julio Cesar Moreno-Sanchez continued during those years attending meetings both in the Directorate of Professions and in the Mexican Association of General Surgery as a guest of the former College or Association, so much so that he actively participated in promoting the change of the Law of Professions before the Health Commission of the State Chamber of Deputies; he had timely knowledge about the change of the Law of Professions, as well as that the Assembly of the FMCECG was approaching, in which the issue of who would represent the State of Michoacán would be discussed, so he contacted the author five days before the assembly, which motivated us to go to the offices of the Directorate of Professions the following day, where we were attended by the C. Lucila Martínez-Manríquez and in a very kind manner she told us what documents were required to process and obtain the official registration, which we did in the term of three days and precisely the day before the assembly, at 22:00 hours of July 15, 2016, she gave us the official document stating the registration of our College, finally obtained in record time!, meaning the documentation that supported the legal foundation of our College. Hours later, at 4 a.m. the next day, we moved by land from our place of residence, Morelia, to Mexico City to be present and on time at the Assembly of the FMCECG on Saturday, July 16, 2016, where Dr. Julio César Moreno-Sánchez was presented as a guest of the FMCECG on behalf of the State of Michoacán, a General Surgeon who came representing the College of General Surgeons of the Zamora Valley, and the author of this paper as representative of our current College. The three of us were required to show the document of the registration of the College before the Directorate of Professions, which only we could accredit it since we were the only ones who had such registration, so the assembly decided that our Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, A.C. could continue with the affiliation procedures to the Mexican Federation of Colleges of Specialists in General Surgery, presided at that time by Dr. Héctor Noyola-Villalobos.

The affiliation was obtained thanks to the support received by Dr. Héctor F. Noyola-Villalobos, Dr. Ignacio Magaña-Sánchez, Dr. Juan Luis Cerda-Cortaza, Dr. Eduardo Moreno-Paquentín, and Dr. Elena López-Gavito on November 2, 2016.

Finally, on March 3, 2017, Dr. Eduardo Moreno-Paquentín swore in the board of directors of our college.<sup>1</sup>

For the Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán A.C. is a great responsibility to fulfill its primary objective, which is continuing medical education, so we set out to conduct monthly update sessions with a high academic level and to achieve this, we invited great surgeons of the country to come to our city to share their knowledge and experiences, which in addition to fulfilling the academic objective of updating, we showed them the beauty of our city and the beautiful state of Michoacán.

Many professors shared their knowledge. It was possible to testify how they skillfully applied this knowledge acquired in their hospitals of the city and other smaller locations all over the state, translating into a direct benefit for patients. We acknowledged the management of negative pressure therapy by Dr. Obed Villanueva in very complicated patients in Zitacuaro. We also testified to the moment Dr. Gloria Avila “kidnapped” a speaker and took him to operate a complicated case of a patient in her hospital. At the same time, we waited for them for several hours in the parking lot until the surgery ended.

When Dr. Eduardo Moreno-Paquentín made us take the oath to the board of directors, Dr. Luis Felipe Maciel-Moreno, a founding member of our College, reminded us that in 1984 was held in Morelia the National Congress of the AMCG chaired by Dr. Jorge Cervantes-Castro (deceased) and the same Dr. Maciel served as local organizer. Dr. Eduardo Moreno-Paquentín asked us if we wanted to make a Regional Congress and all members reacted positively, and once it was our turn to organize it within the role of regional meetings for 2018. We carried it out with the support of the AMCG and the FMCECG as well as with the extraordinary work and

financial support that we did to the college to cover expenses, the congress participants who visited us were able to listen to excellent speakers, learned about and enjoyed the colonial, cultural and artistic richness of our beautiful state of Michoacán, in addition to listening to excellent speakers.

We have the support of the Faculty of Medical and Biological Sciences “Dr. Ignacio Chavez” belonging to the *Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo*. To meet our academic objective, we invited world-renowned foreign professors such as Dr. Gustavo Carvalho from Recife, Brazil, who preferred to come to our meeting instead of the SAGES Congress in the United States; we also had two professors from Spain, Dr. Gonzalo P. Martin-Martin, and Dr. Jose Maria Muñoz-Perez.

To complete the objective, we invited the best surgeons in our country of great international renown. However, due to the short duration of the congress, we could only invite less people that would have liked to. Among the speakers, we had Dr. Héctor F. Noyola-Villalobos, Dr. Mario Vilatobá-Chapa, Dr. Miguel Ángel Mercado-Díaz, Dr. Ismael Domínguez-Rosado, Dr. Adolfo Cuendis-Velázquez, Dr. Juan Roberto Torres-Cisneros, Dr. Vicente González-Ruíz, Dr. Fernando Cerón-Rodríguez, Dr. Carlos San Juan, Dr. Miguel Ángel Rivera, and Dr. Juan Roberto Torres Cisneros. Also, Dr. Luis Juan Cerda-Cortaza, Dr. Sergio Lee-Rojo, Dr. Stefano Sereno-Trabaldo, Dr. Luis Francisco Gómez-Hermosillo, Dr. Ignacio del Río-Suárez- and Dr. Felipe F. Ulloa- Ruiz attended the meeting. We had 864 attendees, many of them students from our University of Michoacan, as well as surgeons from the interior of the state and our country. It was also very satisfying to learn that the promotional video of congress<sup>2</sup> finally had 3,600 views on the Facebook page of the AMCG. Also, we prepared a video mapping in the esplanade of San Francisco, a welcome cocktail at the Palacio Municipal with the participation of the chorus Niños Cantores de Morelia, as well as a concert at the Teatro Ocampo of the Symphony Orchestra of the state of Michoacan and a classical ballet, all

this testimony photographic and video was fully sponsored by the AMCG.<sup>3</sup>

Fortunately, we could rent commercial booths and, with the proceeds from the Congress, we had the opportunity to purchase products promoted at these sites and raffle them among the Congress attendees.

We have signed an agreement with the Directorate of Professions so that our association could endorse the issuance of temporary professional licenses to recently graduated surgeons who are only waiting for their degrees to be delivered to practice their specialty in our state. Our association knows that when the recently graduated surgeon usually does not have a job, they are not charged for this procedure.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus pandemic arrived, and by law and we had to suspend all the face-to-face sessions, as well as the elections of a new Board of Directors of our College, until November 2021, calling for elections in faithful compliance with our bylaws, being elected as president: Dr. Julio Villeda-Lemus and conforming the new board of directors the following: vice-president: Dr. Julio César Moreno-Sánchez; Treasurer: Dr. Marte Alberto Villafuerte-Arreola; Pro-Treasurer: Dr. Ricardo González-González; Secretary: Dr. Adriana Castillo-Frausto; Pro-Secretary: Dr. Bernardino Alcaraz-López; Members: Dr. Alejandro Constantino-Hernández, Dr. Cuauhtémoc Lemus-Castillo, Dr. Óscar Obed-Villanueva Soto, Dr. José Guadalupe Ortiz-Jiménez, Dr. Marleny Urtiz-Paz, and Dr. Jorge Chávez-Carrillo.

We leave the baton of a Medical College of Specialists in General Surgery of the State of Michoacán, legally constituted, with documentation in order and healthy finances.

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**Ethical considerations and responsibility:** data privacy. According to the protocols established in our work center, we declare that we have followed the protocols on patient data privacy and preserved their anonymity.

**Funding:** no financial support was received for the preparation of this work.

**Disclosure:** the author has no conflict of interest in the conduct of this study.

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