

Dr. Mostafa M Elhilali

Chair of the Department of Surgery – 2004-2010



Dr. Mostafa M Elhilali, MD

In 1959, Elhilali obtained his medical degree at the University of Cairo. Thereafter, he trained under talented pioneers in Egyptian urology. This is where he truly fell in love with this specialty. As a research fellow, he travelled to Canada to complete his Ph.D. at McGill University. He became certified in urology by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and was appointed Chair of Urology at the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke.

In 1982, Dr. Elhilali left Sherbrooke and returned to Montreal as Chief of the Department of Urology at the Royal Victoria Hospital, then McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), and Chief of the McGill Division of Urology as well as Professor of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University. He was then named Chair of the McGill Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-chief at the MUHC (Royal Victoria and Montreal General hospitals), as well as the inaugural Jarislowsky Chair of Urology at McGill. Over the years, he served as an active member of many societies such as the Quebec Urological Association (QUA), Canadian Urological Association (CUA; former president), American Urological Association (AUA – Northeastern Section; former president), Société internationale d'urologie (SIU; former secretary-general and president), and European Urological Association.

Ultimately, Dr. Elhilali's legacy is a reflection of the breadth and depth of esteem in which we were held by his peers locally, nationally and internationally; by the students he taught and mentored with conviction and joy; by the administrative leaders with whom he embraced challenges while encouraging excellence, innovation and collaboration at all times; and by the many patients to whom he was so devoted. Examples of innovations that are part of his legacy to our hospitals include steering us to be among the first in Canada to introduce and remain a leader in endourology; helping introduce neuromodulation technology to the world; and laser prostatectomy.

An exceptional leader, Dr. Elhilali was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and Ordre national du Québec. Other honours include Lifetime Achievement awards from the AUA, CUA, QUA, and SIU, as well as the Founder's Award from the Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Gold Medal from the Egyptian Urological Association. In 2011, the Mostafa Elhilali Visiting Professorship in Endourology and Minimally Invasive Urology was created at McGill and the Elhilali-Azrielei Chair in Urology has been established to perpetuate his influence in the field to which he was so devoted.

Sources:

<https://publications.mcgill.ca/medenews/2017/05/05/in-memoriam-dr-mostafa-elhilali-1937-2017/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5472471/>