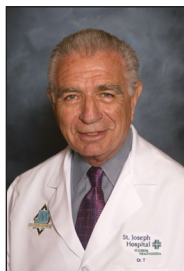


## Julio Taleisnik, MD

Hand Surgery, and

## Andres Teleisnik, MD

Hand Surgery & Plastic Surgery



### *Tell us about the Taleisnik medical legacy.*

**Julio:** I was born in Argentina and was called “doctorcito” by the time I was five or six years old. I always wanted to go into medicine, although eventually I had to choose between a career as a violinist or in medicine. At that point one of the world’s top three surgical centers was in Buenos Aires, where I trained. In 1960 I came to Chicago for an internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center. It was just my wife and me, and now there are 16 of us – three children and eight grandchildren. Eventually my parents moved here. My father was a tailor and my mother became a nurse

practitioner, for many years working at a convalescent home across the street from the hospital.

In Chicago I was impressed by the work of two orthopedic surgeons, so I chose that specialty to train with them. I used to do hips, knees and other sites but I enjoyed doing hands the most and decided to dedicate my practice to that. It was a very innovative time for hand specialists.

When I came to Orange County, I was the 21st orthopedic surgeon. I became Chief of Hand Surgery Services at what is now UCI, and helped develop hand services at the Long Beach VA Hospital. I started my practice at St. Joseph Hospital with four doctors and five full time support staff members. Today, we have five doctors and 16 staff members to deal with the enormous amount of paperwork that’s required. I thought about retiring until my son, Andres, joined the practice in 1997. I’ve lightened my schedule to just mornings. We have an agreement that he’ll tell me when it’s time for me not to do surgery any more.

**Andres:** We assist each other on several cases each month. At 75 he’s still better than 99 percent of the surgeons out there, and he’s a giant in the field. You could go to Africa

and the hand doctors would know who he is because of all of his research and published texts, particularly his expertise in the wrist.

Seeing the satisfaction my father had in medicine influenced me to become a doctor, but I really liked plastic surgery and didn’t intend to specialize in hands. During my residency my wife noticed that I was happier on hand days. The surgeries are often shorter and less laborious and patients get better quickly. I try to keep the cosmetic and reconstructive work I do separate from the hand work. I want patients to know I’m equally qualified in both areas.

*(Dr. Andres received his medical degree from Princeton, completed an internship, general surgery and plastic surgery residencies at UCLA, and fellowship training at the Hand Center of San Antonio.)*

### *Practices with family members aren’t always successful. How do you make it work?*

**Julio:** We’ve never had any problems. Andres is not only well trained, he has what can’t be taught: good judgment.

**Andres:** There aren’t any ego issues. We’re both reasonable, logical and have a mutual respect, and I’ve never felt the need to be his equal.

**Julio:** But he could be.



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