

BIO of Prof. Raul Artal-Mittelmark, M.D., FACOG, FACSM

Raul Artal-Mittelmark is today one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust. He was born under difficult circumstances (in hiding) in 1943 in Bershad-Transnistria, (the site of the command center of SS-Einsatzgruppen D), a slave labor concentration camp, and a Nazi killing field in the Ukraine. He spent his first year of life hidden in an abandoned barn and half destroyed farmhouse.

At the age of one, after the Soviet Union's Red Army liberated the camp, his parents returned to their hometown Czernowitz in Bukovina, which came under the Communists rule.

After many attempts to flee Communist Russia, Raul and his parents were able to move to Romania, and then 12 yrs. later to the US. A year later they decided to move to Israel. Raul finished High School in Israel and then served in the Israeli Army, where he met his future wife Michal. Together, they completed medical school in Israel, and then came to the US for advanced training. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

As Holocaust survivors his parents never stopped, even for a day, from sharing their war experiences, the atrocities, beatings, humiliations, disease, hunger and hiding/protecting Raul.

Transnistria, known as the forgotten Holocaust, was a place where 300,000 Jews perished. The genocide there was accomplished through starvation, random killings by Romanian and SS units, exhaustive slave labor, disease (typhoid and typhus) and freezing cold. 220,000-260,000 Jews died in Transnistria. Of the 25,000 Jews in Bershad only 8,014 survived. Raul's life journey has taken him through 5 different countries and languages. His parents difficult life and the trying circumstances of his birth inspired him to become a physician, specializing in high risk obstetrics. He had a most rewarding and successful academic career.

Currently, Raul devotes much of his time to write his memoirs, sharing thoughts about his life's experiences under the shadow of the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism, and frequently a guest speaker at Holocaust events. His lectures focus on the role of physicians and nurses during the Holocaust, the evolution of the informed consent, ethics in medicine. The lessons learned should never be forgotten.