



Requiem to a Great Master

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On behalf of Brazilian Pancreas Transplant Community,

The Brazilian transplant community mourns the passing of Dr. David E.R. Sutherland, aged 84 (1940–2025). An extraordinary transplant surgeon, scientist, and mentor, Dr. Sutherland's groundbreaking work helped redefine the treatment of diabetes and solid organ transplantation. His legacy lives on in the thousands of patients, the programs he built, and the many surgeons he trained around the world.^{1,2}

The Brazilian transplant community, especially the pancreas transplant community, is deeply saddened by this news. He was a pioneer in pancreas transplantation at the University of Minnesota/USA.¹

If pancreas transplantation is what it is today, this tribute is largely due to him. A man of such ability, humility, kindness, and willingness to teach so many surgeons around the world and to multiply his knowledge and consequent benefits to people with diabetes.

I was able to do an internship with him in 2001. Like me, other Brazilians were blessed to have learned and interned with him. We not only learned the art of curing diabetes with transplants; we also learned how to change the destiny of so many people with diabetes to a life free of insulin. We learned that the best must be humble and that those who aspire to be first must first learn to be last and serve others with humility and perseverance.

Rest in peace, May God guide your journey.

I pay my respects to a great Master!



Figure 1. Dr. David E.R. Sutherland.³

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Not applicable.

FUNDING

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Not applicable.

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