



Dr. Harry L. Shufflebarger

September 5, 1941 - August 11, 2025

The scoliosis world is mourning upon learning of the death of Dr. Harry Shufflebarger. For more than five decades, Harry has played a prominent role in scoliosis education, innovation and patient care.

Harry Shufflebarger was born on September 5, 1941, in Youngstown, Ohio. He passed on August 11, 2025 with his wife, Cindy, family and friends at his bedside. Harry was known for his warmth, humor, and passion for life. His skill level in hooking billfish paralleled his expertise in spine surgery. Because of this, he earned the nickname “Harry the Hook.” His boat proudly carried the name H.T. Hook. His favorite catch was blue martin and he loved helping his friends experience the thrill of marlin fishing. Along with fishing, Harry loved playing bridge, was an avid reader, enjoyed watching sports, and was a world traveler. Many of his friends will remember the large festive parties that he and Cindy hosted.

Harry’s devoted wife, Cindy, of 37 years, accompanied him in all aspects of his life and career. Together, they built a partnership in a life filled with love and companionship. His passing leaves a profound void in the spine surgery community. His contributions, mentorship and friendship will continue to inspire generations of surgeons worldwide.

Dr. Shufflebarger attended Emory University for college and medical school,

beginning his medical studies in 1966. He trained at Emory, Grady Hospital, and the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. In 1971, Dr. Shufflebarger accepted his first faculty position in Coral Gables, Florida, working full-time at Miami Children's Hospital. Dr. Shufflebarger's professional achievements were recognized by leadership positions in the most important spine societies. He joined the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) in 1974 and became its president in 2000.

Dr. Shufflebarger was a founding member of the very prestigious Harms study group, a national and international leader in research in pediatric spinal deformity. He authored 20 textbook chapters, over 50 peer-reviewed spinal publications, acted as a visiting professor at over 100 institutions around the world and had participated in over 150 spinal courses and conferences. After spending nearly 40 years in Miami, he spent the last seven years at the Paley Orthopedic and Spine Institute seeing patients, mentoring and working as a team with Dr. Feldman and Dr. Hariharan. The Paley Institute treated him with the dignity he deserved.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, September 6th, 3-6 pm, at Turtle Creek Club located at 2 Club Circle, Tequesta, FL. Please RSVP to 561-746-8371.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Scoliosis Research Society <https://www.srs.org>. The donation information is listed in the "menu."

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 6. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Turtle Creek Club
2 Club Circle
Tequesta, FL 33469

Tribute Wall

CR

“ So sorry to hear of Dr Shufflebarger’s passing. What an incredible surgeon and man!! He literally saved my life! In 1980 he told me if I didn’t have surgery I’d be dead in a year, I was 23yr. I am 71 today. After many surgeries I am so grateful to him for saving my life!

charan Rightnour - May 11 at 02:29 PM

JS

“ Dr. Shufflebarber performed my scoliosis surgery years ago, and I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing. He changed my life and the lives of so many others through his skill, kindness, and dedication. My heartfelt condolences to his family.



Jennifer Souto - December 06, 2025 at 10:24 PM

SC

“ Early in my career, I had the privilege of working with Harry Shufflebarger during my first role as an attending pediatric radiologist. He was incredibly kind and offered valuable insights and advice, enhancing my understanding of the unique spinal pathologies he managed and how to effectively communicate with referring orthopedic spine surgeons. His mentorship had a profound impact on me, and I am truly grateful for his kindness and collegiality. He will be missed.

Seth Crapp - October 23, 2025 at 09:49 AM

LB

“ When Harry Shufflebarger passed away recently, the spinal community lost one of the great masters of scoliosis surgery. Harry Shufflebarger was known and respected in his field because he was constantly searching for novel ways to improve his patients' lives. Leaving no stone unturned, his analytical approach allowed him to find better treatment concepts which he then openly shared with his colleagues worldwide.

When Harry Shufflebarger spoke, the spinal community would listen.

I was privileged to attend the very first meeting between Harry Shufflebarger and Jürgen Harms in the early 90's. The setting was unique, as both gentlemen discussed their individual approaches and clinical results by taping x-rays to Harry Shufflebarger's kitchen window in Miami. In my eyes, history was written during this informal meeting and a strong relationship developed between both gentlemen. I am convinced that neither MOSS MIAMI nor the HARMS STUDY GROUP would exist without their collegial, respectful and open-minded exchange which lasted for many decades.

Those of us who are fortunate to have known Harry more closely, will remember him as a softly speaking gentleman with a certain dry wit of humor, willing to share his thoughts.

We send our deepest condolences to his wife Cindy and their family.

Dear Harry, thank you very much for your encouraging support and candid guidance over all the years of our journey together. May you rest in peace.

Lutz Biedermann for the Biedermann Family

Lutz Biedermann - October 01, 2025 at 09:33 AM

VS

I recently learned of Dr. Shufflebargers' passing. I'm a 48 year old paraplegic and I was one of his youngest patients at 11yrs old in 1990. We broke records together doc and I'll always be grateful for how direct and honest with me you always were. I regret not seeking you out sooner for a little reunion since you lived so much closer to my town than I'd realized. May your family be comforted that you truly lived an honorable and meaningful life that impacted so many! Job well done sir. Rest in eternal peace. ~ Victoria Stein

Victoria J Stein - May 15 at 02:03 PM

MA

“*Dr. Schuffelbarger did my surgery in 2010. I was 18 years old. He saved my life and give me hopes. I was able to carry two pregnancy and become a mother. I am deeply saddened to hear he has passed away. My condolences to his family and friends. RIP Dr. 🥹*



Maria Cabrera Alvarez - September 11, 2025 at 05:17 PM

SP

“*Dr.Shufflebarger made a profound difference in the life of my daughter, Sophia Perez. She was an athlete that was diagnosed with scoliosis at the age of 8. He always told her to not let go of that dream. She had spinal fusion surgery and went on to compete in a division 2 program. She was a three time national champion swimming the butterfly which he promised her she could achieve. He was her angel here on Earth. He was knowledgeable and a truly remarkable man. We will miss him.*

Sandra Perez - September 06, 2025 at 02:52 PM

LY

I just doh d out of the passing if Dr. Shufflebarger. He performed a major spinal fusion in me in 1996 when I was 16. The recovery took along time but I can look back and say that he truly saved my life. I have since spent my career and the last two decades as Firefighter in one of the countries busiest fire departments. I wouldn't have achieved this without his steady hands and brilliant techniques.

Lysander - May 03 at 11:04 AM

DC

“ Donna T Carroll lit a candle in memory of Dr. Harry L. Shufflebarger



Donna T Carroll - September 06, 2025 at 01:53 PM

LE

“ Dr Shufflebarger has made a huge impact in the Orthopedic surgical practice in Medicine. But he's made a huge impact on my life as well. I worked with him as of 1984 for 26 years at what was then, Miami Children's Hospital. Working with him and his team was one of the greatest experiences I had as a Pediatric Anesthesiologist. The tone in his room was always to seek perfection at every level but particularly for patient care. He had a carefully laid out routine for his cases. Every aspect of patient care was always at the forefront. Everyone in the room knew what the expectations were. We all worked together as a team with the same goal. I can't stress enough how patient care was always on everyone's mind no matter what one's duty was in the OR. This professionalism is what I took away from him as we did cases together for so many years. He treated everyone with respect and never raised his voice. It was honestly an experience I'll never forget. May he Rest in Peace. I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Cindy and the rest of his family.

Laurette Ellis - September 06, 2025 at 11:22 AM

KG

“ Our condolences to the Shufflebarger family as we all mourn the loss of such an incredible individual. We'll always remember his heart of gold and the care and compassion he shared with us. We lost more than a Dr, we lost family. We'll forever miss you. The Gomez Family



Kristopher gomez - September 05, 2025 at 12:53 PM