



In your self-published memoir, 'Ice Chips', you stated, 'I do nourish hope of humanity's ability to overcome adversity and even offer a helping hand to those who need it.' My dear colleague and friend, your career remains testimony to this very statement. A beloved patient of yours just recently called to remind you of the 35th anniversary of her surgery which you performed during her pregnancy. She had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and was given little hope for survival... that was until she met you. She recalled waking up in her room after surgery and you were holding her hand and reading a textbook. She knew then she would survive, and so she did. She now returns to us yearly from Massachusetts where she and her husband have retired. Like this story, there are hundreds more attesting to the spirit and soul of the physician I have worked beside for 35 years. The Hippocratic Oath states, I will 'maintain utmost respect for human life.' You, sir, have fulfilled your vow with skill, honor, excellence and compassion. Thank you for delivering all my children including my beautiful Grandson Cillian.



Kathleen, Nurse, Patient and Friend

Thomas

In March 1944, he was nine years old when the German Army occupied Hungary. "A year later the Russians 'liberated' our country from the Germans. Only later did we learn that they 'liberated' us from much more – from all our precious possessions, our basic rights and freedom as well. – Early one morning two men in civilian clothes came and took my father, Joseph, a teacher, away. We never found out why. He was sent to labor in the Siberia's mines for the next ten years." When Thomas turned eighteen he decided to pursue a law degree, until Ilona, his mother said, "You want to devote your life to a legal system where they can pick up people and take them away without any due process? – Become a doctor! That would make more sense."

After the death of Stalin in 1953, Thomas' father was released and came home. Their joy was short lived because on 4th of November 1956 the Soviet Army crushed the Hungarian uprising for freedom. "Waiting for my Medical School to re-open, I made the difficult decision to escape from Hungary. My perilous journey started with a motorcycle ride, than hiding in a milk truck, forgery of papers to get police permission to get on a train. On the train I pretended to be part of a wedding party; than had to abandon that train as it neared the station before the boarder guarders could ask me for my missing papers. Through the kindness of local friends, who gave me an ID card of someone who looked like me and a bicycle to help me get closer to my final crossing I arrived at the Austrian border. Than in the dead of night, I meet the kindness of a fully armed officer, who in turn showed me to the escape route. My heart pounding, as I moved from tree to tree, crouching behind bushes, than on all fours I would crawl through the uneven hard ground, barbed wire and blown mine fields to freedom - a small Austrian flag."

Thomas than continued his journey and arrived in America (January 30th, 1957) where his Uncle Arpad a research scientist at the Rockefeller Institute was able to put him on the correct path to complete his education and became in 1965 an OB/GYN doctor. For the next twenty years, he did clinical research in female reproductive physiology in the United States, South America and Europe. He is considered by colleagues to be expert in amniocentesis (health of fetus) related problems. In 1980 he performed a ground breaking surgery on a fetus. After that Thomas and his wife Robin decided that he needed a change to full time private practice where he delivered over 4,000 babies.



Thomas - OB/GYN Doctor, Hungarian Refugee with Cillian