Each fall a symposium honoring Howard Rosen, M.D., (1925–2000) is held by the NYU-Hospital for Joint Diseases Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. A wide array of topics covering many aspects of orthopaedic trauma are presented at this symposium, including presentations on new techniques, reviews of current concepts in orthopaedic trauma and point-counterpoint discussions on controversial topics. At an institution with many distinguished faculty, both past and present, Howard Rosen stands out. He was born in New York City in 1925 and raised in the Bronx. He completed both his undergraduate and medical education at New York University and began his practice as an orthopaedic surgeon at the Hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopaedic Institute in 1948. While attending a SICOT meeting in New York City in 1959, Dr. Rosen was introduced to the fracture fixation techniques of Maurice Müller. He was fascinated by these new techniques and was the first North American surgeon to attend the AO course in Davos, Switzerland, in 1960. He subsequently became the foremost proponent of the AO technique in North America, and was both nationally and internationally known for his expertise in the treatment not only of acute fractures, but also of infections and non-unions. Throughout his lifetime, he published numerous chapters, journal articles, and abstracts. He served as faculty at over 300 courses and symposia throughout the world, and received many awards and honors. He was known not only as an excellent surgeon, but also as a great teacher, and displayed both these skills as Chief of the Problem Fracture Service at the Hospital for Joint Diseases until his untimely death in 2000. Dr. Rosen started the Tri-State Orthopaedic Trauma Symposium twenty-six years ago as a forum for orthopaedic surgeons from the tri-state area to discuss difficult cases. Since his death, this symposium has been continued to honor both his memory and his enormous contributions to orthopaedics, and is now in its twenty-seventh year. We are pleased to present selected papers from the 2003 26th Annual Howard Rosen Symposium in this special issue of the Bulletin.