



AMERICANS FOR
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1001 Avenue of the Americas, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10018

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Dr. Zelman was born in Ukraine during a famine, survived the Holocaust, and made his way to medical school during the height of antisemitism in Europe. He applied to medical school in Novosibirsk, Siberia, which was among the few schools that accepted Jews. Dr. Zelman was accepted and graduated, earning an MD and the first of two doctorates.

In 1976, Dr. Zelman was a professor and chair of anesthesia and intensive care at the Institute of Neurological Disease and Neurosurgery at the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR. A year later he moved to the United States and completed a residency and fellowship in anesthesiology at UCLA.

In 1981, Dr. Zelman joined USC where he remained for more than 40 years. There he helped develop techniques to improve surgeries for epilepsy and movement disorders, and brain, nerve, and spine surgeries. He has published more than 170 papers, 25 book chapters, and made 450 presentations. His techniques are now used around the world. His knowledge and expertise are widely recognized. Presidents, movie stars, professional athletes, and thousands of people have sought him out to place their lives in his hands during surgeries.

Professor of anesthesiology, emeritus professor of USC, and longtime Keck School supporter, Dr. Zelman recently created and endowed the Vladimir Zelman, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair in Anesthesiology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. In addition to his recent gift to establish the chair, Dr. Zelman has been instrumental in sustaining the Zelman Lecture Series and has helped found the Zelman Center of Distance and International Education.