

John P. Albright, MD

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John P. Albright, M.D., was born on March 2, 1941, in Aurora, Illinois. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Illinois in 1963 and his M.D. from Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University, in Chicago in 1967. He attended Yale University College of Medicine for a one-year surgical internship followed by an academically oriented three-year orthopaedic residency. These clinical years were followed by an appointment as a research fellow at Yale in the N.I.H. Post Doctoral Program investigating bone turnover in metabolic bone diseases, which also led to temporary stays at both Mayo Clinic, with Jennifer Jowsey, Ph.D., and the University of Utah with Webster Jee, Ph.D. During this research year he also served as an orthopaedic consultant in the cerebral palsy and scoliosis clinics. In 1971, he achieved national recognition by receiving an “outstanding resident” award from the American Orthopaedic Association.

In 1972, he joined the University of Iowa faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedics, where he initially focused his clinical efforts on cervical spine surgery, hip and knee adult reconstruction, and children’s neuromuscular problems. His basic and translational research interests continued in bone metabolism with an emphasis on osteoporosis, for which he received multiple research grants from the N.I.H., the V.A.H., and the Dows Foundation. Throughout his career he has continued to receive more than 20 grants for studies in a variety of areas.

In 1975, he began a six-year faculty appointment to the University of Iowa Board in Control of Athletics, and also began to see U.I. and other athletes for consultations. This led to the establishment of The U.I.H.C. Sports Medicine Clinic. By 1980, he became the founding Medical Director of the multidisciplinary U.I. Sports Medicine Service for University Athletes and Recreational Participants. This incorporated the skills of both physicians and the athletic training staff, and also coordinated on-the-field primary care with specialty care and ancillary services available at the U.I.H.C.. Essential to this system of care was the development of the Sports Injury Monitoring System (S.I.M.S.) with Ed Crowley, L.P.T., L.A.T., Dan Foster, Ph.D., L.A.T., and Robert Martin, Ph.D. The program monitored patient progress, produced weekly injury updates, and also served as the basis for many epidemiologic studies which continue to be produced at the U.I., as well as throughout the Big 10 Conference. Several presentations and publications were generated from this system, beginning with an award-winning effort on neck injuries in football presented at the American Medical Association Annual Meeting in 1975. Major efforts at the conference level have included evaluating the effectiveness of preventive knee braces and the effects of N.C.A.A. spring practice rule changes on injury rates. Medical Sports Systems, Inc. continues today under the direction of John Powell Ph.D./L.A.T., but originated from the initial S.I.M.S. program.

As an educational effort, Dr. Albright established the Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellowship and the annual Hawkeye Sports Medicine Symposium in the early 1980s. He also introduced a lecture

series into the athletic trainer education curriculum, working closely with Program Director Dan Foster, and became the Clinical Director of the Athletic Training Education Program. Soon, he incorporated the clinical years of this program into the Orthopaedic Department, and the athletic trainer students became extensively exposed to musculoskeletal problems not only on the field, but in outpatient clinics and the operating theater. Dr. Albright was recognized as a National Athletic Trainer's Association (N.A.T.A.) honorary member in 1989. Since then, he has also represented the A.O.S.S.M. as liaison to the N.A.T.A., and was chairman of the A.O.S.S.M. Outstanding Athletic Trainer of the Year Award Committee from 1994 through 2001.

Research has been a vital and integral part of Dr. Albright's mentoring and educational efforts at all levels. He has mentored numerous graduate students in the athletic training program, and more than 40 other graduate students including Ph.D. and master's degree candidates, as well as innumerable orthopaedic residents and sports medicine fellows. Throughout his career he has: Authored over 150 publications and abstracts; given almost 250 presentations worldwide; held a U.S. patent for an arthroscopic double-barrel meniscus suturing device with co-inventors Bob Martin and John Dyson; developed the Iowa knee brace; developed a hamstring proprioception-based pivot-shift control program for the ACL deficient knee with Ed Crowley; and has developed two innovative surgical techniques.

Dr. Albright's A.O.S.S.M. activities have included membership on the Ad Hoc Committee on Neck Injuries, 1978-80 and serving as Chairman of the Basic Science Section, Research and Education Committee, 1975-81. This latter chairmanship led to his authoring an O.R.E.F. grant for the committee, intended to educate the membership on research proposals and grant writing. That led to the internal funding and "pre-review" protocol currently available for applications submitted to the committee. Additional A.O.S.S.M. activities include membership on the Committee on Examinations and Evaluations; A.A.O.S. (1978-87) followed by the A.O.S.S.M. Sports Medicine Fellowship Exam Committee, 1993-97; serving as chairman of the Science Section of the Research Committee, 1981-1989; membership on the Education Committee, 1994-2000; serving on the Program Committee, 1997 – 2001; serving as chairman for the Annual Meeting Instructional Courses, 1997-2001; membership in the Fellowship Directors Committee, 1995 – present; and serving on the Research Committee in a second term, 2007-2013.

A.O.S.S.M. honors and awards have included an Excellence in Research award for "Meniscal Repair in the Canine Model" in 1988; the Cabaud Memorial Award for "The Effects of Lifelong Exercise on Canine Articular Cartilage" in 1996; an A.O.S.S.M.-E.S.S.K.A. Traveling Fellowship "Godfather"-ship in 1998; Magellan Society membership in 1999; and the George D. Rovere Award in 2001. He was also elected to the A.O.A. as one of its youngest members, at the age of 40.

Dr. Albright currently serves on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Sports Medicine, and the Journal of Techniques in Knee Surgery. He is currently a case selector and oral examiner for the A.B.O.S. Sports Medicine Panel and has been since 1975. He is also current Chairman of the Research Grant Sub-committee of the Major League Baseball Medical Advisory Committee.