

Martin E. Blazina, MD**1924 - 1992**

Martin E. Blazina, MD was a pioneer in the development of Sports Medicine as a separate subspecialty in orthopaedics. As team physician for UCLA in the 1960's, he recognized that athletes were not afforded the same high level of care that the general patient received. During his tenure at UCLA and over the next decade, he was an advocate for the increased level of care of the athlete and creator of the Sports Medicine Program that still exists today. His dedication and commitment to care of the athlete and academic instruction to peers and physicians in training, led directly to his contribution in the publication of the Standard Nomenclature of Athletic Injuries. He trained the first Sports Medicine Fellow in 1973 and continued to train Fellows until his death in 1992.

Dr. Blazina was a constant innovator and thinker and not afraid to consider new procedures. He had an early focus on patello-femoral problems and resurfacing, as well as aggressive physical therapy techniques, in spite of their unpopularity. He was the first to describe Jumper's Knee and shoulder subluxation as separate entities. His research and publication have set the standard of care for these areas.

His legacy was to encourage and entice his Fellows to "think outside the box" and explore new directions in the care of sports injuries, and if here today, he would know that he met with great success.