

Leslie M. Bodnar, MD
South Bend, IN

Dr. Les Bodnar is a Graduate of the University of Illinois: BS 1939; College of Medicine, M.D., 1941. He completed his Internship at Charity Hospital New Orleans, 1941-1942 and he carried out his Surgical Orthopaedic Residency at the same hospital during the terms of 1942-1943 and 1946-1947. Dr. Bodnar also served as an Orthopaedic Surgeon in the United States Armed Services during 1943-1946.

He entered a solo practice of Orthopedic Surgery in South Bend, Indiana in 1947. Dr. Bodnar then served as Orthopedic Surgeon to Notre Dame athletic teams, 1949-1985 and as Coordinator of Sports Medicine at the University of Notre Dame, 1976-1985.

Dr. Bodnar retired from his Orthopedic practice in October, 1999 after 52 years of orthopedic surgery, during which time his practice had evolved into the orthopedic clinic know as South Bend Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine Clinic. Dr. Bodnar continues to serve as part time pro bono Orthopedic Consultant to Chapin Street Health Center for indigent patients, in association with St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Bodnar is a Qualified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery since 1949. He is a Member of the American Medical Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, a Founding Member of The American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, a Member of the Clinical Orthopaedic Society and the Indiana Orthopedic Society, and an Honorary Member of the National Athletic Trainers Association.

One of Dr. Bodnar's first presentations was "Surgical Repair of Ligaments of the Knee" in 1960 at the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons meeting. Some of his other noted presentations were "Use of Synthetic Materials and Repair of Ligament of the Knee in 1973 at the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine meeting; "American Sports Medicine and the Olympics" in 1977 at the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine meeting and "Highlights on Sports Medicine" in 1978 during the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons meetings.

On the community level, Dr. Bodnar conducted numerous sports medicine conferences for coaches and trainers beginning in the 1960's, and continuing through the 1980's. He stimulated the development of, and served on, The Indiana Governors Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness in the 1980's. He was awarded the honor of "Sagamore of the Wabash" by Governor Robert Orr, State of Indiana, 1988, recognizing his contributions to sports medicine and the NATA.

Some of Dr. Bodnar's most significant contributions to sports medicine include his profound leadership in the early stages of AOSSM, including serving as one of its early President's from 1976-1977. During his time as a leader, special effort was directed toward formalization of relationships with prominent organizations like NATA and the U.S. Olympic Committee. Dr. Bodnar also was responsible for stimulating the development of a Commission on Sports Medicine, under the Indiana State Medical Association.

Nominator: Willard G. Yergler, MD
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