

Alexander Kalenak, M.D.
1935-

Alexander Kalenak, a native of Nanty Glo, Pa., and a graduate of the former Nanty Glo High School, attended The Pennsylvania State University, graduating in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pre-Med. The M.D. degree was conferred on him by Hahnemann University in 1961. The following year was spent as a rotating intern at Akron City Hospital, Akron, Ohio. A three tour of duty as a United States Navy flight surgeon (1962-1965) preceded a residency and fellowship in orthopaedic surgery and oncology at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia.

His first academic appointment was as Assistant Professor at the Albany Medical College in Albany, New York, from 1970-1973, during which time a special interest in injuries of the knee evolved, and especially in the emerging field of arthroscopic surgery (first used primarily in the diagnosis of knee injuries, followed then by the minimally invasive treatment of those injuries).

In 1973 he was appointed Assistant Professor at Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, Pa., and Team Orthopaedic Surgeon for the entire Penn State athletic program at University Park. In Central Pennsylvania he pioneered the use of the arthroscope in the diagnosis and surgical treatment of injuries of the knee. He fostered and developed the concept of a sports medicine center where the orthopaedic surgeon works alongside of- and as a team member with - the primary care physician, athletic trainer, physical therapist, and others- to provide care to all athletes: high school, college, recreational and professional. In 1980 he established a one-year fellowship in Sports Medicine, which continued on an annual basis during his tenure at Penn State. The fellowship was unique in that the fellow was appointed to the full-time academic staff and therefore, had clinical responsibilities to not only sports medicine patients but to all orthopaedic patients. Other responsibilities of a fellow included research projects and the teaching of residents, athletic trainers, physical therapists, and other allied health personnel.

The year 1993 saw the culmination of his efforts to establish a comprehensive Sports Medicine program at University Park campus as well as at the Hershey campus with the opening of a Sports Medicine Center at University Park. The center served the student athletes, the faculty and staff of PSU and the general public. A new building was dedicated for an outpatient clinic, a rehabilitation facility, and imaging facility, and an outpatient surgery facility. Full-time academic staff was appointed. Simultaneously, the Sports Medicine Center at the Hershey campus was opened to provide the same comprehensive services, all in close proximity to one another.

Page 2
Biographical Sketch
Alexander Kalenak, MD

He is a member of many national and international orthopaedic/sports medicine organizations and has served on editorial boards and committees of these organizations. He has been visiting professor/lecturer extensively—promoting educational courses for sports medicine health professionals. He has authored or co-authored six books or book chapters and over fifty journal articles and abstracts.

Dr. Kalenak is presently a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of The Pennsylvania State University, seeing outpatients at the Hershey campus as well as at the University Park campus. He is no longer engaged in an active surgery practice.

In January 2001, Dr. Kalenak was presented with the David G. Moyer Award from the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association. Dr. Kalenak was also inducted in the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society Hall of Fame in May 2004.

It has just been announced that a Professorship endowment was created in his honor. The Alexander Kalenak, M.D. Professorship in Orthopaedics for his many years of service to Penn State, Hershey and the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, and for his contributions to the field of sports medicine. This will be presented to Dr. Kalenak in August 2006.