

John C. Kennedy, MD

1917-1983

John C. Kennedy attended the University of Western Ontario where he obtained his medical degree in 1942. He devoted his orthopaedic life to help lower the price of excellence in sport performance. At a time when sports injury clinics were unheard of in Canada, he convinced the authorities at The University of Western Ontario to convert a wrestling practice room into a clinic which was named after him following his death in 1983.

Dr. Kennedy was a founding father of the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine, an organization dedicated to providing health care for Canadian athletes. He was named head of Canada's medical team sent to the Munich Olympics in 1972. The first of its kind, this became a model for teams that have followed. Dr. Kennedy received many appointments, but he was proudest of his presidencies of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association in 1969 and serving as AOSSM President in 1979- the society he truly loved and helped found.

Dr. Kennedy received many awards including Mr. Sports Medicine from AOSSM in 1982 and the Outstanding Service Award from the Canadian Orthopaedic Association in 1972.

His scientific contributions changed the face of knee surgery. Using a knee stress machine, he identified the sequences of ligament failures during knee injury. His work to improve objectivity in the assessment of knee laxity using a clinical knee stress machine was published in 1971 and republished in 1995 as a "Classic" in Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research. Other publications include the timely and important textbook, "The Injured Adolescent Knee" in 1979. It continues to be acknowledged that Dr. Kennedy's research and clinical practice were at the forefront of the treatment of knee ligament, and particularly the ACL injuries.