

Gerald A. O'Connor, MD  
1935-2004

Gerald A. O'Connor, MD, passed away on May 5, 2004, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Born in Burbank, South Dakota, he attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and went on to medical school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. After serving his country in the military, Dr. O'Connor spent his entire professional career affiliated with The University of Michigan. Having completed his orthopaedic training at Michigan in 1958, he entered private practice in Ann Arbor and joined The University of Michigan Orthopaedic faculty full time.

He had an active role in the University of Michigan Orthopaedic Residency Program and many graduates credit Dr. O'Connor with fostering their initial interest in sports medicine. He also pioneered many efforts to improve sports medicine care in the State of Michigan and the Big Ten Athletic Conference.

Dr. O'Connor began taking care of The University of Michigan Athletic teams in 1964 and completed 40 years on the sidelines. He also served as consultant for innumerable high school and recreational athletes throughout the Ann Arbor and Detroit areas.

Dr. O'Connor treated many types of patients, from rodeo stars to local farmers. His interest in sports medicine led to the development of The University of Michigan Sports Medicine program now known as MedSport. Being a well-rounded outdoorsman, Dr. O'Connor enjoyed many hobbies including horses. He served as the President of the American Quarter Horse Association in 1987.

Dr. O'Connor was a founding member of AOSSM and served as its President in 1982-1983. He was honored with many awards but none meant more to him than being named "Mr. Sports Medicine" by the AOSSM in 1998.

Dr. O'Connor was highly revered and respected in the field of sports medicine. Until his passing, Dr. O'Connor enjoyed his home, Wenloch Farms, in Ann Arbor where he lived with his wife, Margaret, and raised nine children. He was a dedicated professional, who will be dearly missed by his family, the university that he served, and those that he mentored.