

Robert R. Oden, MD
1922-

Robert R. Oden was born in 1922 and spent the majority of his early years in education in Chicago, Illinois where he attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, followed by Medical School and Orthopaedic Residency at Northwestern University in Chicago. In 1957 Dr. Oden moved to Aspen, Colorado establishing the first orthopedic practice in Aspen and became the first board certified orthopedist in a major ski area in the United States. He then went on to become the US Ski Team Physician in 1960 for the Olympic Games. Recognizing the need for continued care for the US Ski Team, Dr. Oden established a pool of physicians to travel with the team, founding their medical program and becoming the Chief Orthopedic Surgeon for the US Ski Team from 1967-1980. He has served as a medical advisor to the US Olympic Committee, a board member of the US Ski Team, US representative to the FIS Medical Committee and an organizer for the many FIS Aspen World Cup programs.

Dr. Oden also founded and serves as a board member of the US Ski Team Educational Foundation, helping to provide not only for the medical needs but also the education of team members beyond their ski careers.

Sports medicine education has been paramount to Dr. Oden. He was the driving force in the establishment of The Aspen Foundation for Sports Medicine Education and Research, including its fellowship program which he established in the 1970's.

Dr. Oden has been instrumental in raising funds for advancing medical care in his community. He started an on slope clinic in Snowmass, and in 1962 was asked by Vail Associates to establish the same to serve the skiing public in Aspen. He served on the Aspen hospital board for 18 years and has donated his time to many other organizations

in Aspen such as Non-Profit Corporation for Employee Housing and the Emergency Medical Training Program in Colorado and Aspen.

Dr. Oden has been a member of AOSSM since 1973. He has been recognized for his contributions to sports medicine through several honors and grants including the Bleagen Award in 1985 for outstanding service to the US Ski Association, the Aspen Hall of Fame in 1995, and the US and Colorado Ski Hall of Fame in 2002.

Dr. Oden has been a driving force in ski related sports medicine in the US, and a good friend and mentor of many in the sports medicine community.