

Timothy N. Taft, M.D
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Timothy N. Taft, M.D. is the Max Novich Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedics and long-time Director of Sports Medicine at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Following high school in Kirkwood, MO, Dr. Taft attended Princeton University and the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of North Carolina, where he then joined the faculty. In the early 1970's, he helped organize and develop the formal sports medicine program at UNC. This program was unique in that it was based on a medical model with the physicians, athletic trainers, physical therapists and nutritionists being part of the university health care system rather than being directly employed by the Department of Athletics.

In addition to being the team physician and orthopaedic surgeon for the Tar Heels, Dr. Taft has been the team physician for more than 40 USA teams at international competitions including:

- Staff Physician for the 1979 USA Pan American Games Team
- Staff Physician for the 1980 USA Olympic Team
- Head Physician for the 1981 USA World University Games Team
- Physician for the 1986 World Champion USA Men's Basketball Team
- Physician for the 1990 World Champion USA Women's Basketball Team
- National Team Physician for US Swimming from 1983-2004
- Medical Director for 1999 Special Olympics World Games
- Head Physician for 2011 USA Special Olympics World Summer Games Team
- Head Physician for 2013 USA Special Olympics World Winter Games Team.

Dr. Taft has held many national leadership positions in sports medicine and orthopaedics. He has served on the Board of Directors for the AOSSM, the Medical Advisory Committee for the USOC and has often been an examiner for the ABOS. He currently serves as the North American representative to the Global Medical Advisory Committee for Special Olympics International.

For his extensive contributions to the field of sports medicine, Dr. Taft has been honored as a Distinguished Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America and has been recognized as a "Priceless Gem" by the UNC Department of Athletics. He has received Distinguished Service Awards from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the University of Missouri and the University of North Carolina. He has won several teaching awards at UNC and is well known for the Christmas tree ornaments he makes for his staff each year.