

Roland P. Jakob MD

A native of Emmental, Switzerland, Dr. Jakob was educated at Burgdorf College and entered medical school in Berne in 1961 and Vienna in 1964. He started his training in general surgery at Inselspital Berne in 1968. Following his training, he left for a mission of the International Red Cross during the Yemen War in 1970. He started his orthopaedic-traumatological training with Professor Maurice E. Müller in the same year, who then sent him in 1972 to Finland with Kauko Vainio in rheumatoid surgery. In 1973, he traveled to Toronto, Canada with Mercer Rang and R. B. Salter in pediatric orthopaedics and with J. MacNab in shoulder and spine. During this time, D. MacIntosh taught him the Pivot Shift which was the decisive stimulus for his later clinical path. After starting shoulder and knee arthroscopy at the University of Berne in the mid-70s, Müller and later R. Ganz put him in charge of the knee and pediatric surgery, a combination he pursued for 15 years.

In 1995, after 20 years as Professor and Vice Chief at the Orthopaedic Clinic of the University of Berne, he went to Kantonsspital Fribourg, as Chief with six staff members and 12 residents. He trained numerous fellows in both places. He has been Professor Emeritus since 2007.

Dr. Jakob has lectured nationally and internationally on topics of trauma, knee and sports medicine and published extensively. He was a member of 10 scientific societies and served as President of three national and two international societies, five of those made him an honorary member. For the past 15 years, he has run an educational program in Eritrea, East Africa for Eritrean and Swiss orthopaedic surgeons.

He has been married for 49 years to Jeannette Thérèse Kocher. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren. He also has been an amateur runner, alpinist, deep snow and crosscountry skier. He is continually teaching both locally and internationally former fellows and residents and pursues his activities on his favorite topics of cartilage repair, ligament and meniscus reconstruction, osteotomy, regenerative medicine and joint preservation.

He enjoys botany and gardening on Lake Murten, Switzerland and likes to spend time at their mountain house and in the olives of Tuscany.