

~~June 6, 2011~~

To: AOSSM

Alexandra "Sandy" Kirkley, MD, FRCSC, was a delightful, thoughtful, and academically driven young orthopaedic surgeon when she and her husband were killed in a plane crash on September 8, 2002. At the time of her death, Sandy was known as a leading advocate for outcomes based research in orthopaedic sports medicine. She clearly saw the importance of patient-based evaluation of non-operative and operative treatments, which over the last decade, has become the desired methodology to measure of the effectiveness of interventions.

Dr. Kirkley received her MD degree from The University of Western Ontario in 1986, completed an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ontario in 1987, and her residency in orthopaedic surgery at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in 1991. In 1994 following an Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellowship at The University of Western Ontario, she joined the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery there, becoming Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery in 2000 and also in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics in 2002. She served as team physician for women's soccer, women's ice hockey, and women's basketball at The University of Western Ontario and as charge physician for the swimming and diving competitions at the 2001 Canada Games in London, Ontario.

Dr. Kirkley was an associate editor of the Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine, the Physician and Sports Medicine and the Sport Medicine Digest. She was a peer reviewer for the Canadian Medical Association Journal, the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, the American Journal of Sports Medicine, and the Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery. Between 1997 and 2001 she served in ISAKOS as chair of the Scientific Committee and as co-chair and head of the Clinical Trials Committee. In 2002, she was named as a Canadian delegate in the AOSSM Council of Delegates.

During her lifetime, Dr. Kirkley supervised many post-graduate students and research trainees, the majority of whom won various academic awards for their work. As primary investigator, she received funding for over forty-five peer reviewed research projects and published numerous papers on outcomes in orthopaedic sports medicine research. As part of her legacy, more than twenty-five studies that she initiated have been published by her colleagues in peer-reviewed journals.

The extent of Dr. Kirkley's impact on Orthopaedic Sports Medicine is witnessed by a large number of posthumous awards and recognitions that have been established in her honor. These include the Sandy Kirkley Award for Best Clinical Research at The University of Western Ontario Orthopaedic Residents' Day. Annually the Sport and Exercise Section of the Ontario Medical Association presents the Sandy Kirkley Memorial Lectureship and the Canadian Academy of the Sport and Exercise Medicine presents the Sandy Kirkley Memorial Research Session. The Sandy Kirkley Clinical Outcome Research Grant was established by the AOSSM in 2003 and the Canadian Orthopaedic Foundation offers an Alexandra Kirkley Young Investigator Award. Perhaps the most significant and enduring of these is The University of Western Ontario Dr. Sandy Kirkley Chair in Musculoskeletal Research which was established in 2007.

Those of us who knew Sandy feel honored to have met her and experienced her contagious enthusiasm. We are also especially proud that she is the first woman to be inducted into the AOSSM Hall of Fame. She is survived by her two sons, Colin and Connor.