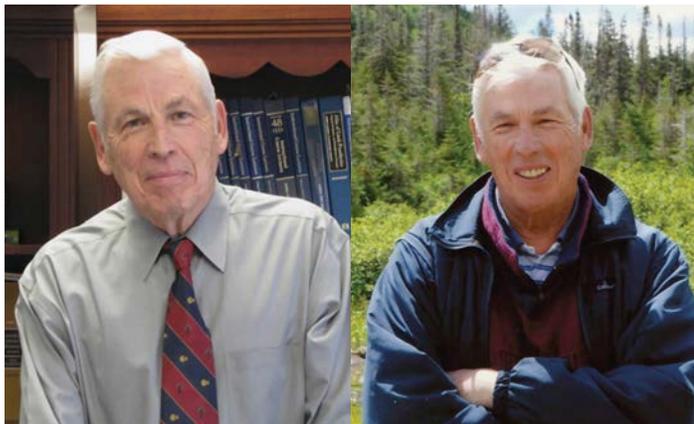




In Memoriam: Denis Sise Drummond, MD, FRS(C) (1934-2019)



John M. Flynn, MD



Denis Drummond, Chief of Orthopaedics at CHOP from 1985-1996, passed away June 18th 2019 in Toronto, Canada. Our dear friend, colleague, mentor and professional idol left a breathtaking legacy globally. Through his clinical care and research, he bettered the lives of several generations of children; through his teaching and mentoring, he helped train and advise hundreds of surgeons. With his vibrant leadership skills, he improved pediatric care at the University of Wisconsin and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), as President of the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS) and as a founding leader of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America. Perhaps Denis's greatest impact, however, was on his friends, colleagues and family, for whom his joy of life, positive energy and good old-fashioned Irish wit enriched friendships and deepened his love for his family. He is survived by his college sweetheart and loving wife of 60 years Joan, his 4 sons, 10 grandchildren and a number of dogs.

Born on New Year's Eve 1934 in Montreal to Paul and Elizabeth Drummond, Denis grew up loving hockey, football and outdoor activities. Denis received his BA (1957) and MD (1962) from McGill University, and then did his orthopedic training at the University of Toronto. After completing a pediatric orthopaedics fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street in 1969, Denis joined the Orthopaedic Surgery Department at McGill University and Shriner's Hospital. After 8 years in Montreal, and 7 years as Director of Pediatric Orthopedics at the University of Wisconsin, Denis was recruited to be Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at CHOP, which he led from 1985-1996 as Professor of Orthopaedics (tenure track).

Denis was known as a skilled surgeon, with a particular interest in spine deformity and pediatric cervical spine anomalies and injuries. His pediatric spine thought-leadership was widely recognized, and included both implant design (he

was co-holder of 6 patents), surgical technique improvement and outcomes research. He published more than 180 original research studies, 42 chapters, and was a popular invited lecturer, serving in that role more than 50 times. He was legendary for his mentoring of young orthopaedic scholars, vetting ideas and very frankly critiquing project ideas, results and manuscripts; many owe early career success to Denis's commitment to teaching and mentorship. He won the Okagaki Resident Teaching Award at Wisconsin, and was a 6-time winner of teaching awards (Nicholson Award or Dean's Award) at Penn/CHOP.

Denis's signature legacy at Penn Orthopaedics and CHOP was initiating the transformation of Penn's Pediatric Orthopaedics program from a small group of clinicians into the internationally recognized, academic thought-leader powerhouse that it is today. Denis recruited John Dormans and Jack Flynn to the staff, and Ted Ganley and David Spiegel to Fellowship (who later joined the staff)—turbocharging clinical and academic growth of the Orthopaedic Division in the 1990's. Denis started the CHOP Pediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship, which has now trained more than 60 pediatric orthopaedic surgeons to date. He drove the clinical research effort, starting from scratch and inventing the orthopaedics CRC model that has been invaluable to research productivity since the early 1990's. He generously shared his expertise internationally including time with CARE in Tunisia and after the major earthquake in Armenia, and was featured on the PBS show "Nova" as part of one of the very early teams separating conjoined twins. Denis continued his clinical practice at CHOP until 2014, when he retired back to his native Canada, spending time at their summer home on the Saint Lawrence River (Metis sur Mer, 200 miles north of Quebec City), with Joan, family and friends.

Denis played a key leadership role in forming the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA). He was President of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Study Group in 1982. In 1983, he was Chair of the Merger Committee of Pediatric Orthopaedic Study Group and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society that navigated the merger process leading to the birth of POSNA. He was also a leader in the Scoliosis Research Society, serving on the SRS Board of Directors for 10 years, including President 2001-2. He was the co-recipient of the SRS Hibbs Award for best paper (2006) and ultimately the SRS Lifetime Achievement Award (2011).

Perhaps the place Denis impacted the Penn Orthopaedic community most was through his passion for teaching and

mentoring young surgeons. A generation of Penn residents benefitted from his wisdom and sage advice. So his legacy of mentoring lives on, and Denis is honored each year with CHOP's annual Denis Drummond Rising Star Visiting Professorship. Initiated in 2016, the program offers an innovative young pediatric orthopaedic surgeon the opportunity to visit CHOP's clinics and ORs and participate in lively interactive education and research sessions.

Denis Drummond left an amazing legacy—for his family, patients, trainees, institutions and organizations. Ultimately, all of us whose lives were warmed and improved by Denis's advice, humor, and joy will carry with us his inspiration to make lives better, as he did.



Ted Ganley, David Spiegel and Denis Drummond.



Denis Drummond at dinner with his wife, Joan.



Dr. Denis Drummond enjoying dinner amongst friends and colleagues, 1996.



Denis honing his future ortho skills in the woodshop.