

Orthopedics • This Week

The Top 19 U.S. Sports Medicine Specialists

By Elizabeth Hofheinz, M.P.H., M.Ed.

What do the Dallas Cowboys, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and New York Giants have in common? They all have sports medicine doctors on this list! According to those in-the-know, there are 19 high echelon sports medicine specialists in the U.S. who are extraordinarily equipped to meet the needs of athletes.

Here is that list. We don't have "the market" on lists...this isn't the be-all and end-all list—but it is a list of the most impressive sports medicine specialists in the country. This information was obtained via a telephone survey of thought leaders in the field. The information in quotes is what we heard about these surgeons.

In alphabetical order, here is OTW's list of the top 19 sports medicine specialists in the United States.

David W. Altchek, M.D. is an attending orthopedic surgeon and co-chief in the Sports Medicine & Shoulder Service at Hospital for Special Surgery. He is the medical director for the New York Mets and a medical consultant for the NBA. Dr. Altchek is a professor of Surgery in Clinical Orthopaedics at the Weill Cornell Medical College. "He has vast experience in treating baseball injuries, and has developed a popular variation on the Tommy John surgery. He is very active in research and education and is a real sports medicine innovator."



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U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Jayme Pastoric

James R. Andrews, M.D. is one of the founding members of the Andrews Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center in Birmingham, Alabama. He is a past president of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM). He is clinical professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University Alabama Birmingham Medical School, the University of Virginia School of Medicine, the University of Kentucky Medical Center, University of South Carolina Medical School and adjunct professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Andrews is senior consultant for the Washington Redskins, medical director for the Tampa Bay Rays, team physician for the Birmingham Barons Double A Professional Baseball Team, and medical director of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. “He taught us how to manage and think about the entire system that surrounds professional athletes, i.e., that in addition to working with the athlete, we must also know how to work with trainers and coaches. He is a charismatic leader who has helped us get better outcomes in the field.”

Ned Amendola, M.D. is professor and director of the University of Iowa Sports Medicine Center. He is a professor at The University of Iowa Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Amendola is the Kim and John Callaghan Endowed Chair in Sports Medicine. He is the head team physician for the Hawkeye football team. “He is well respected, and has done a lot of biomechanical and clinical research in knee surgery techniques. He is an honest man with great integrity... and he is a super educator.”

Robert A. Arciero, M.D. is professor and chief of the Sports Medicine Division of the Department of Orthopaedic

Surgery at the University of Connecticut Health Center. He is also the director of the Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Fellowship program at the UConn Health Center. Dr. Arciero is a team physician for the University of Connecticut athletic programs. He is also an orthopedic team physician for USA Hockey. “He has won numerous awards for his knee and shoulder research, and is in the presidential line for AOSSM. He is very well respected, honest, bright, a good leader, and a good teacher.”

James P. Bradley, M.D., M.S. is a sports medicine specialist with Burke & Bradley Orthopedics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Bradley is head orthopedic surgeon for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He is a past president of the National Football League Physicians Society and of Herodocus. “He is extremely experienced in the professional athletic realm and has very clear and consistent judgment with regard to patient care. Surgically, he is excellent.”

Daniel D. Buss, M.D. is the founder of Sports and Orthopaedic Specialists in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is an orthopedic consultant to the University of Minnesota varsity athletes, Macalester College and Northshore Gymnastics. He is also a team physician for the Minnesota Twins. “He is an expert in shoulder injuries in all kinds of athletes (throwing athletes or those in contact sports). He is outstanding and has contributed greatly to our understanding of shoulder injuries.”

Brian J. Cole, M.D., M.B.A. is a sports medicine and cartilage restoration orthopedic surgeon at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush. Dr. Cole is a professor in the Department of Orthopedics with a conjoint appointment in the Depart-

ment of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. In 2011, he was appointed as chairman of surgery at Rush Oak Park Hospital. He is the section head of the Cartilage Research and Restoration Center at Rush University Medical Center. Dr. Cole is the team physician for the Chicago Bulls, co-team physician for the Chicago White Sox team and for DePaul University in Chicago. “He is known for doing important basic science research—as well as clinical research—and has brought many innovations to our field. He is a real leader and is widely respected.”

John E. Conway, M.D. is a sports medicine specialist with Orthopedic Specialty Associates, Texas Health Physicians Group in Fort Worth, Texas. He also serves as medical director for Ben Hogan Sports Therapy Institute at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth. He is Team Orthopedic Consultant for the Fort Worth Cats Professional Baseball Team, the University of Texas at Arlington, and is Baseball Orthopedic Consultant for Texas Christian University. “He is well known for baseball medicine involving the shoulder and elbow. He is an outstanding surgeon with meticulous training... and he does sports medicine for all the right reasons.”

Daniel E. Cooper, M.D. is a sports medicine specialist with the Carrell Clinic in Dallas, Texas. He is a past president of the Texas Sports Medicine Society and is an independent consultant to numerous collegiate and professional teams, sports agents and their players. He is also the head team physician for the Dallas Cowboys. “He has great judgment, is a logical thinker, and is a talented surgeon. He is also known for his research and teaching activities.”

Neal S. ElAttrache, M.D. is a sports medicine specialist with the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles, California. Dr. ElAttrache is chairman of the Board of the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Foundation and program director for the Kerlan-Jobe Fellowship. He is the team physician for the LA Dodgers and is an orthopedic consultant to the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, St. Louis Rams, LA Lakers, LA Kings and the PGA Tour. "He is a master when it comes to the shoulder, elbow, and knee. He is an extremely thoughtful surgeon and is technically excellent."

Freddie H. Fu, M.D. is the David Silver Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Fu specializes in sports medicine and holds secondary appointments as professor of Physical Therapy, Health & Physical Activity, and Mechanical Engineering and serves as the head team physician for the University of Pittsburgh's Athletic Department. He is a past president of the AOSSM. "He is the primary person that came up with the concept of anatomic ACL reconstruction. He is world famous and is a major influence in sports medicine."

Christopher D. Harner, M.D. is medical director for the Center for Sports Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also the current president of the AOSSM. Dr. Harner is the Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He holds a secondary appointment as professor of Physical Therapy, Health, and Physical Activity.

"He is known for his leadership and co-directs one of the most prestigious fellowships in the country. He has also been a prolific author."

Darren L. Johnson, M.D. is professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Kentucky. He is director of sports medicine and serves as head orthopedic surgeon for the Kentucky Wildcats. "He is a great teacher; he is also known for his important work on the ACL. He is a major proponent of the newer anatomic technique."

Walter R. Lowe, M.D. is the Edward T. Smith Professor & Chair, Chairman & Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He is also the medical director of the Memorial Hermann Sports Medicine Institute and the chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Memorial Hermann Hospital - Texas Medical Center & LBJ Hospital Houston. He is the head team physician for the Houston Texans and the Houston Rockets. "He is extremely experienced with sports injuries, especially those in the knee. He is a very caring doctor and knows how to develop a great rapport with patients/players."

C. Benjamin Ma, M.D. is the chief of sports medicine and associate professor in residence at the University of California, San Francisco. "He is doing impressive research in cartilage knee and is talented leader. He is a very vibrant part of the sports medicine community."

Mark D. Miller, M.D. is the S. Ward Casscells Professor of Orthopaedic Sur-

gery at the University of Virginia and a team physician at James Madison University. "He is very prolific in terms of his work on review courses; he is an excellent teacher and clinician."

Marc Safran, M.D. is associate chief of sports medicine, fellowship director of sports medicine, and professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Stanford University. "He is known for his research on clinical outcomes in hip arthroscopy. He is well respected and is highly sought after for meetings and speaking engagements."

Russell F. Warren, M.D. is surgeon-in-chief emeritus of Hospital for Special Surgery, attending orthopedic surgeon and professor of orthopedics at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. He is a former president of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and the American Shoulder & Elbow Society (ASES). He is the team physician for the New York Giants football team. "He is a great educator and is always a student. He has stayed 'on the curve' despite being a veteran in orthopedics. He is known for being innovative and forward thinking; he has solid clinical judgment."

Lewis A. Yocum, M.D. is a sports medicine specialist with the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic in Los Angeles. He is the team physician to the Los Angeles Angels. "He is reknown for treating baseball athletes; he is very respected for his work on the shoulder and elbow, particularly in overhead throwing athletes. He is a resource for the diagnosis and treatment of injuries that involve complex decision making." ♦