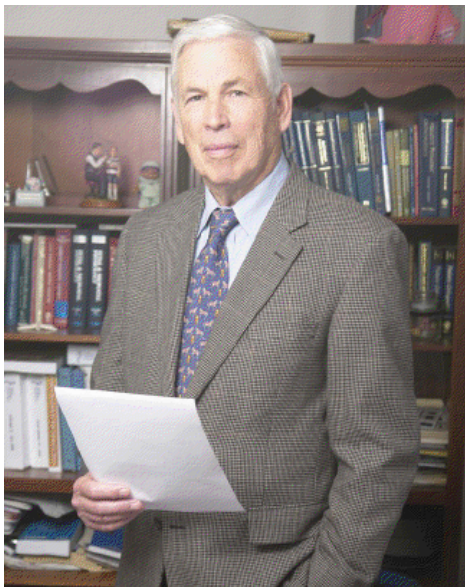




A Tribute to Denis Drummond

- Harish Hosalkar, MD; David Spiegel, MD; Theodore Ganley, MD



It has been a distinct privilege knowing professor Denis Drummond (a.k.a DSD) for the past decade. It is also a privilege to pen these words for him, although writing a book would have been easier than summarizing a page on this remarkable person. Denis has been a father, a friend, a philosopher and a true guide to me in all these years.

We have shared many things in common; a passion for children's orthopedics, working at CHOP, the commonality of being immigrant doctors coming to United States, and fellowship training from Great Ormond Street hospital, London, although mine was three decades later.

DSD has had a tremendous influence on my career. He has certainly inspired me to shape into a better clinician and surgeon and more importantly a better human being. One of the most intellectually stimulating experiences for me in my repeat residency has been the unique ability to meet up with him consistently every week for the past seven years, and deliberate with him on various scientific and research questions. More precious have been the

memories of thousands of personal anecdotes in his professional career that he has shared with me over the years. DSD's office is 'always open' for everyone, and the barrier of professorial importance in an ivy-league institution seldom touches his down-to-earth nature. Everyone is always welcome and a 'smile' is always waiting for you- a true reflection of his positive attitude.

DSD is a prime example of a perfectly balanced professional that I would give anything to emulate in my own life. A dedicated husband, an exemplary father and grandparent, a fantastic surgeon, an extremely loved human being (more than 12 years after leaving his position as chief of orthopedics at CHOP, he continues to be loved by one and all in the department and the hospital), an extraordinary researcher and a true scientist. It has been a treat approaching projects and clinical problems together. He has walked me through all these over the many years of my professional career.

As I move on with my career, one of my greatest personal losses when leaving PENN will be leaving the shadow of my greatest mentor of all time. The true treasures I walk away with are his blessings and expectations for my professional career. But more than anything else, I will truly miss being with DSD.

--Harish Hosalkar MD

It is an honor and privilege for me to share my thoughts in this tribute to Denis Drummond, a true giant in the field of pediatric orthopaedics. It is fitting that this issue of the University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal be dedicated to Denis, recognizing his distinguished career in pediatric orthopaedic surgery, and his numerous contributions to both the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He has been my mentor and friend for more than ten years, and has remained a constant source of support, motivation, and inspiration. It is hard to capture my feelings in words.

I first met Denis as a fellow in 1997, the most memorable year of my educational career. He was extremely enjoyable to work with, and his skills as a teacher are unsurpassed. Denis is

the ultimate role model, and his wisdom extends well beyond orthopaedics. I am always amazed at his capacity to function at the highest level as a surgeon, educator, researcher, administrator, and perhaps most important, as a husband, father, grandfather and friend. Despite a long list of achievements, too numerous to site here, he remains humble, personable, and approachable. His positive attitude permeates all who surround him. He is always available and willing to help.



He excels at developing a student's thought process, and in challenging dogma; while it's always important to know the answer, it is perhaps more important to know how to get there. Medical students, residents, and fellows have benefited from his teaching style, both conventional and unconventional. His vast experiences and wealth of knowledge cover the entire spectrum of pediatric orthopaedics. We have spent hours discussing interesting cases and approaches to solving complex problems. While these discourses often veer off into the theoretical, he can rapidly transform theory into a practical and realistic plan. He has a wonderful bedside manner, and his "down to earth" approach to caring for children and their families should be emulated. His mentoring skills extended well beyond academic endeavors. He has always taken a keen interest in my personal life, and I relish the time we have spent discussing topics outside of work. I have had many great laughs, and still recall many of the "Drummondisms", many of which are not fit for print! It has been such a pleasure to be back at CHOP for the last four years, and I am so fortunate to share an office with my mentor. As a partner, he continues to be a constant source of support and inspiration. I look forward to

working with him for many a years to come, and to many more fun times.

--David Spiegel, MD

Dr. Drummond's surgical, administrative and academic accomplishments eclipse those of just about anyone that I have ever known. While there are very few that can give an evaluation as a peer of similar accomplishment I feel uniquely qualified to comment as one of Dr. Drummond's fellows, as his official University Mentee, and as one who has quietly noted the qualities of a great man from an office next door over the past 12 years.

My life like the life countless others that have trained through the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as well as The University of Pennsylvania was dramatically changed from Denis Drummond. Like many of those who read this journal I vividly remember my first encounter and countless surgical sessions thereafter. In a span of forty minutes during our initial fellowship interview Denis presented his philosophy and his goals for those that he trains, his commitment, and his genuine interest and knowledge of his trainees. He also discussed the importance of having every one of his residents and fellows give something back on a daily basis and over a lifetime in some way. He noted that giving back could include teaching, research, and publishing among other measures. Over the years he has had high expectations for us all and he is a person that no one wishes to disappoint.

When establishing a reunion lecture series and annual reunion dinners I have been contacted by many former residents and fellows who collectively have noted that Denis as a mentor gave them insights including positive as well as constructive negative feedback regarding orthopedic surgery and life that only closest family members and closest friends could or would give.

Many of his trainees have described different situations and qualities regarding Denis that might sound at first dichotomous to some. For those who have spent more than just a few cases or office sessions together with him those qualities make perfect sense. Operatively Dr. Drummond is clearly fearless, but certainly never careless. He is an innovator and inventor of surgical equipment, and while he freely accepts new ideas he also emphasizes fundamental

traditional principles. He has described himself as “just a tough former hockey player” while operating with an artist’s touch. He requires and “wills” excellence from his surgical team when faced with incredibly complex procedures and at any time is known to express his appreciation to a helpful person or people with either a small or large role to play. He celebrates and enjoys treating and teaching us all about involved cases referred from various parts of the world but also relishes simple procedures which give him the chance to teach the basics to the youngest present. He is perhaps the most direct and blunt when faced with indifference that has the potential to negatively affect patient care yet also the first to complement that same person when changes are made and a job is well done. He is independent in his thinking and simultaneously fiercely loyal to his profession, his teaching institution, and his colleagues.

Dr. Drummond is a true academician. He is a master in terms of his orthopedic knowledge, and teaching ability yet he gladly becomes the student when anyone else is present with more information on a particular topic. There is no one beneath his stature and also no one by whom he is awed. He loves ideas, loves

concepts and loves to debate in a healthy, lively way.

There are physicians at our own institution as well as those from different parts of the country and the globe that consider him a mentor and a friend for a lifetime. This sentiment is echoed by our operating room and outpatient nurses, as well as administrative staff and international research fellows some of whom have never had the privilege of operating with Dr. Drummond.

There is certainly nothing that I can write to fully encapsulate the appreciation, respect, and gratitude that a generation of orthopedic surgeons have for Denis Drummond. The qualities used to describe him by those passing by his office and subsequently mine include warmth, brilliance, confidence, loyalty, and vision. A consistent theme that I have heard among young and old is the description of friendship. He has the ability to universally motivate and inspire through respect, friendship, and a shared love of academic medicine. It has been a privilege working for and with Denis Drummond and I look forward to working together for years to come.

--Theodore Ganley, MD

