

ABOUT CARL L. NELSON, MD

Dr. Nelson practiced orthopedic surgery in Little Rock, Arkansas. He completed his residency at the Cleveland Clinic and, following two years of service in the U.S. Army, was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford, England, where he studied from 1968 to 1969. Upon returning to the Cleveland Clinic, he joined the faculty and served as head of the Section of Orthopaedic Research until 1974.

During his tenure at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Nelson performed the institution's first total hip replacements and was instrumental in establishing a strong adult reconstruction program. In 1974, he was recruited to the University of Arkansas, where he served as Chair of Orthopedic Surgery and played a key role in developing the department's educational mission.

Dr. Nelson served as the 19th president of the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association (MAOA) in 2000—the same year the University of Arkansas honored him by establishing an endowed chair in his name. He passed away unexpectedly in 2005, leaving behind a legacy as a devoted educator, mentor, pioneer in joint replacement surgery, and accomplished researcher.

