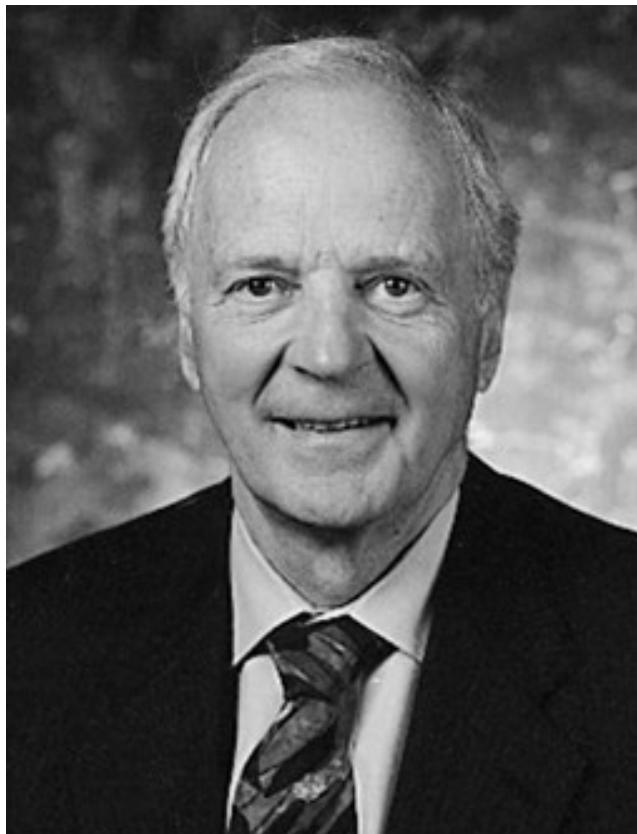


ABOUT

HAMLET L. PETERSON, MD

Dr. Peterson, MD, was a pioneering pediatric orthopaedic surgeon who spent his entire consultant career at Mayo Clinic, where he served as Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Orthopedics, becoming a world authority on growth plate injuries and children's bone growth abnormalities. Born and raised in Decorah, Iowa, within a 70-mile radius of where he would live most of his life, he was the son of a Luther College professor of Classics and athletic director, who instilled in him a love of precise language and communication that he carried into orthopaedic terminology and meticulous medical record keeping.



An outstanding three-sport athlete and standout quarterback at Luther College, he was invited to try out for the Chicago Bears but chose to pursue medicine at the University of Iowa after deciding that preserving his teeth and long-term health mattered more than professional football; true to his deliberate nature, he also took up tennis as a "lifelong sport" in college and continued to play into his nineties.

After serving as a U.S. Air Force general medical officer, completing his orthopaedic residency at Mayo Clinic, and joining the Mayo staff in 1967, he refined and popularized physeal bar resection, presented seminal work alongside Anders Langenskiöld in 1969, designed and maintained independent growth-plate databases when the formal Mayo record system could not accommodate his graphs, and ultimately authored more than 100 scientific papers, dozens of book chapters, two authoritative books on growth plate injury, and the landmark long-term series on physeal bar resection.

A co-founder of the Pediatric Orthopedic Study Group and a key early leader of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, he received POSNA's Arthur H. Huene Memorial Award, its Distinguished Achievement Award, and induction into its Hall of Fame, and is remembered by colleagues and trainees as a precise thinker, demanding but generous mentor, grateful servant of Mayo Clinic, devoted family man, and joyful outdoorsman whose influence on children with complex musculoskeletal conditions spans generations and continents.