

Orthopedics

This Week

The 28 Top U.S. Shoulder Surgeons

By OTW Staff

If a shoulder specialist has a torn rotator cuff, whom do they go to for advice? Here are the answers! Shoulder surgeons at the top of their game let us know their thoughts on the best orthopedic surgeons in their subspecialty.

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 shoulder surgeons 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 are the top 28 shoulder surgeons in the United States.

Joseph A. Abboud, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon at the Rothman Institute in Philadelphia and associate professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. "He is an extremely talented clinician and researcher with a lot of funded research projects. He is an innovator and has been involved in designing new shoulder prostheses."

April D. Armstrong, M.D. is associate professor of Orthopaedic Shoulder and Elbow Surgery at Penn State Hershey Bone and Joint Institute in Pennsylvania. "She is a rising star, and has developed several models of glenoid bone loss. She is very involved in resident education and instructs other faculty on how to best educate residents."

John-Erik Bell, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. He is also assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and The Dartmouth Institute. "He is getting a masters degree in



epidemiology specializing in public health outcomes. Basically, he is helping to determine whether or not what we do as surgeons is cost effective. He has also made a significant contribution to our under-

Louis U. Bigliani, M.D. is the Frank E. Stinchfield Professor and chairman in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center. He is also chief of the Shoulder Service at the Center of Shoulder, Elbow and Sports Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center and is a past president of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES). "He is a great educator, researcher, and clinician with a tremendous amount of experience. He is well regarded and is a thoughtful leader."

Wikimeida Commons and Jaime de la Fuente standing of the geographical distribution of shoulder problems."

Stephen S. Burkhardt, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with The San Antonio Orthopaedic Group in Texas. He is also clinical assistant professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and is a past president of the Arthroscopy Association of North America. "He is a real innovator and has advanced all aspects of arthroscopic surgery throughout his career."

Brian J. Cole, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon at Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, as well as professor in the Departments of Orthopaedics and Anatomy and Cell Biology. Dr. Cole is section head of the Cartilage Restoration Center at Rush (Rush Univer-

sity Medical Center). "He is known for his deep understanding of cartilage repair. He is really on the cutting edge of what is out there."

Edward V. Craig, M.D., M.P.H. is an orthopedic surgeon at Hospital for Special Surgery in New York and professor of Clinical Surgery (Orthopaedics) at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Craig is a past president of the ASES. "He is phenomenal. He has a wide breadth of experience and has particularly good interpersonal skills... a fantastic person."

T. Bradley Edwards, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Fondren Orthopedic Group, LLC in Houston, Texas, and a clinical instructor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Texas at Houston. He is also clinical assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Baylor University, and clinical professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at the University of Texas Medical Branch. "He is outstanding. He has a very broad practice, but is best known for arthroplasty and for his publications on reverse shoulder arthroplasty. He is a thoughtful scientist."

Neal S. Elattrache, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon and director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship at the Kerlan Jobe Orthopedic Clinic in Los Angeles. He is also associate clinical professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Southern California. "He is a leader in arthroscopic surgery of the shoulder and elbow and is the team doctor for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is truly an outstanding doctor and surgeon."

Evan Flatow, M.D. is the Bernard J. Lasker Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics and chief of Shoulder Surgery at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Dr. Flatow is a past president of the ASES. "He is a talented clinician, scientist, researcher, and educator...he is the whole package. He is especially known for his work on ways of better understanding rotator cuff repair and healing."

Mark A. Frankle, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with Florida Orthopaedic Institute in Tampa and director of the Biomechanical Shoulder and Elbow Research Lab at the University of South Florida College of Engineering. "He is known for reverse shoulder replacement, and has designed his own prosthesis for DJO (it is different and controversial). He is not afraid to go against the tide. He has had such success that other product designers have modified their prostheses to look a bit more like his."

Leesa M. Galatz, M.D. is associate professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Program Director of the Shoulder and Elbow Fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "She is probably on everyone's list of the best shoulder surgeons in the U.S. She has a deep understanding of the complexities of shoulder problems and will tackle any type of problem."

Ruben Gobezie, M.D. is director of the Cleveland Shoulder Institute University Hospitals of Cleveland and fellowship director at the Cleveland Akron Shoulder & Elbow Fellowship. Dr. Gobezie is also head of the Cartilage Transplant Center of Cleveland. "He is a younger surgeon...very innovative and skillful. He does a lot of allograft bone grafting for isolated cartilage lesions through a minimally invasive approach—not many people are doing that now."

Joseph P. Iannotti, M.D., Ph.D. is chairman of the Orthopaedic and Rheumatologic Institute at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland. He is also co-director of the Orthopaedic Research Center and has a joint appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Iannotti is a past president of the ASES. "He is one of the most knowledgeable people in the world on shoulder replacements. As far as how to do complex revisions he is 'the man'...the court of last resort."

Jay D. Keener, M.D. is assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "He is a very intelligent guy and is doing some

great research on rotator cuff repairs and healing—these are prospective randomized trials."

William N. Levine, M.D. is professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University in New York. He is also vice chairman of Education in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia, as well as director of Sports Medicine. In addition, Dr. Levine serves as associate director of the Center for Shoulder, Elbow & Sports Medicine and director of the orthopedic surgery residency program at Columbia University Medical Center. "He is very dedicated to teaching residents, fellows, and medical students. He is a great surgeon, and is very involved with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) on continuing education for practicing shoulder surgeons."

Frederick A. Matsen, III, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with the University of Washington Bone and Joint Center in Seattle and is the Douglas T. Harryman II Endowed Chair in Shoulder and Elbow Research. Dr. Matsen is a past president and founding member of the ASES. "He is not only innovative, but he possesses an incredible understanding of the way the shoulder works. He has trained some of the top shoulder surgeons that are currently in practice."

Peter J. Millett, M.D., M.Sc. is an orthopedic surgeon and partner at the Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado. "He is a well-recognized shoulder expert in all areas. He has developed a select practice that includes many high end athletes. He is on the forefront of several advanced arthroscopic shoulder techniques that are used to treat athletes."

Anand M. Murthi, M.D. is attending orthopedic surgeon and chief of the Shoulder and Elbow Service at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He is also director of Shoulder and Elbow Research at that institution. "He is a younger genera-