

MEMORIAL

Dr. Charles Adelbert. Rockwood Jr. (1929-2022)

Dear Editor

Today, orthopedic trauma is one of the most vital disciplines globally, undergoing constant evolution daily (1). Each year, tens of thousands of limb traumas occur in various countries, which orthopedic trauma surgeons manage (1). Based on historical documents, a Spanish book discussed the reduction of fractures during the Renaissance and the 16th century. Percivall Pott published one of the earliest books, *Some Few Remarks upon Fractures and Dislocations*, in 1768 (2). Until World War II, the significance of orthopedic trauma was not fully appreciated, and orthopedic fractures and diseases were not treated separately (1). However, in recent decades, orthopedic trauma has developed. Dr. Charles A Rockwood's efforts have resulted in this advancement.

Rockwood and Greens: Fractures in Adults and *Rockwood and Wilkin's: Fractures in Children* is one of the most valuable textbooks published on orthopedic trauma (1). This textbook is one of the most comprehensive available on the diagnosis, treatment, and classification of limb fractures in children and adults. There have been nine editions since 1975 (1). There was no comprehensive view of orthopedic fractures and trauma prior to the publication of this book, and in the majority of countries, treatment was nonoperative (1). Sir Reginald Watson-Jones had previously written a book on *Fractures and Joint Injuries* in 1965 (4). However, it was not as well-known as Rockwood's, which became the standard reference text for diagnosing and treating fractures.

Dr. Charles A. Rockwood was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA, on September 19, 1929. He was one of the American Orthopedic Association's (AOA) most distinguished members (3). Dr. Charles A. Rockwood earned his medical degree from Oklahoma University in 1956 (3). In 1961, he completed an orthopedic residency at Oklahoma University and its affiliated hospital. He later founded the orthopedic department at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas, in 1966 and joined the American-British-Canadian (ABC) traveling fellowship program of the AOA in 1967(3). He published numerous journal articles and served as editor of several textbooks throughout his career. In 1984-85, he served as president of the American academy of orthopedic surgeons (AAOS). He collaborated with DePuy orthopaedics to develop a total shoulder replacement system and performed the first

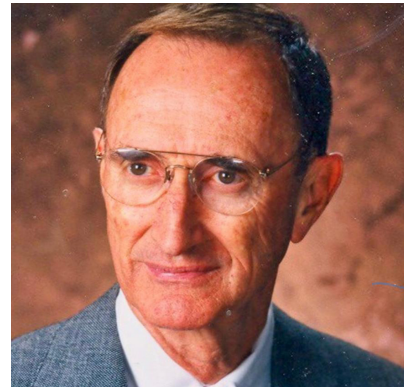


Figure 1. Charles Adelbert. Rockwood Jr. MD.

Global total shoulder implantation in the summer of 1990 (5). His shoulder fellowship attracted applicants from numerous states and foreign countries to establish his reputation as a world-renowned shoulder surgeon [Figures 1; 2].

Additionally, he served as editor of three major orthopedic textbooks used worldwide with several editions over the past 40 years (5). Furthermore, he spent more than two decades as the head of orthopedics at UT Health San Antonio [Figures 3; 4] (5). Finally, in



Figure 2. Dr. Mohammad H Ebrahimzadeh, Editor -in Chief of *Archives of Bone and Joint Surgery*, with Dr. Rockwood in 2006.

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Figure 3. Textbook: Rockwood and Green's Fractures in Adults & Children.

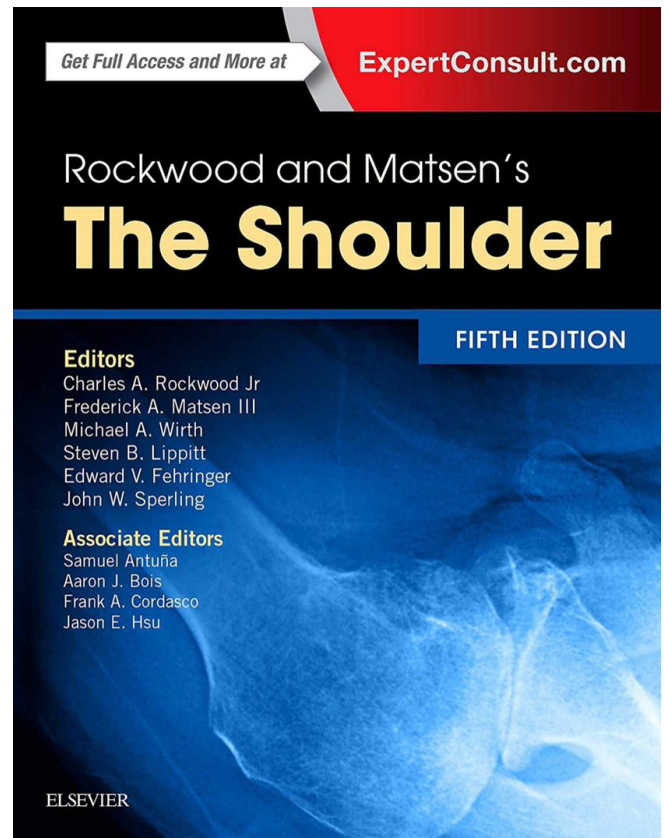


Figure 4. Textbook: Rockwood and Matsen's The Shoulder.

2016, he celebrated 50 years of service at the University of Texas as a professor and emeritus chairman of the department of orthopedics and director of the shoulder service (3). Sadly, he died on February 1, 2022, at 92, in San Antonio, following a 60-year career. We value his six decades of contributions to the advancement of orthopedic trauma [Figure 1].

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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