

NEWS

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CHRISTOPHER E. ATTINGER, MD, RECEIVES
OLMOS AWARD FROM DFCON

Christopher E. Attinger, MD, director of the Wound Healing Center at Georgetown University Hospital, received the 2007 Edward James Olmos Award for Advocacy in Amputation Prevention from DF Con, the Global Conference on the Diabetic Foot.

David G. Armstrong, DPM, PhD, and George Andros, MD, DFCon co-chairs, and Edward James Olmos, the Emmy-winning and Oscar-nominated actor, presented the award at ceremonies March 23, 2007, during the DFCon meeting at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles.

Diabetic foot experts from all 50 U.S. states and 29 foreign countries attended the conference.

Accepting the honor on behalf of the Georgetown wound healing team and its patients, Dr. Attinger emphasized the importance of physician and patient education about diabetic foot ulcer prevention.

In cases where diabetic foot ulcers do occur, Dr. Attinger noted that up to 96 percent can be treated successfully. "A team approach to diabetic foot care has the highest chance for limb salvage because of the components of a

diabetic foot ulcer are beyond the talents of any given individual,” said Dr. Attinger.

Dr. Attinger said that the team should include a vascular surgeon, podiatrist, orthopedist, endocrinologist, internist, nephrologist and a wound care team involving a physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, pedorthetist, prosthetist and nutritionist.

“The team will only be as good as its weakest link, as each plays an integral role in the salvage effort,” Dr. Attinger said.

Dr. Armstrong praised Dr. Attinger as a visionary in diabetic limb care and salvage. “Dr. Attinger’s integration of plastic, podiatric, vascular and orthopaedic surgery in his unit has been hailed as both novel and visionary,” Dr. Armstrong said.

Dr. Andros noted that Dr. Attinger has created a new approach to diabetic limb salvage. “He has approached the diabetic wound in a fresh way so that modern wound care technology has taken a parallel position with more traditional therapies like offloading/debridement by podiatrists and revascularization by vascular surgeons,” said Dr. Andros.

Dr. Attinger graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Washington and Lee in 1977, and cum laude from Yale Medical School in 1981. He did his internship and residency in General Surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Then he completed the Homan Vascular Fellowship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 1986. He continued to NYU where he did a two-year Plastic Surgery Fellowship and the Beasley Hand Fellowship, before joining Georgetown University Hospital, where he is a full professor in three departments -- Plastic Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery and Otolaryngology.

Before beginning his illustrious medical career, Dr. Attinger served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. In 1968 and 1969, he was an officer with the Fifth Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne. He was wounded in combat. Among other medals, he received the Purple Heart with OLC, the Bronze Star with OLC and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

The author of a long list of professional papers, Dr. Attinger is a member of numerous societies including ASPS, AAPS, AOFAS, ACS, ASRM, ADA and WHS. Born in Lausanne, Switzerland, Dr. Attinger speaks several languages and is a world traveler, with a variety of personal and professional interests. He has trekked to both the North and South Poles, is an ardent Arctic aficionado, nature photographer and snow skier.

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Photo Attached