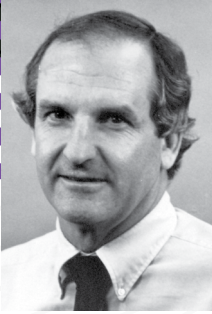


Meet Our ACSM Past Presidents



Neil B. Oldridge, PhD, FACSM ACSM President 1990-91

Education:

PhD, Physical Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1972; MSc, Physical Education, University of Florida, 1966; BA, English and Physical Education, Rhodes University, South Africa, 1964

Current or most recent affiliation:

Professor Emeritus [Active], Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Honors & Awards:

- 2005 Michael M. Pollock Established Investigator Award, American Association Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- 2004 Wei Lun Visiting Professorship, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2002 Peter Beckmann Medal, German Society for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Cardiovascular Disease, Lifetime Achievement in Research
- 1994 Citation Award, American College of Sports Medicine
- 1994 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Foundation Research Award

Professional Interests:

Coronary heart disease and rehabilitation outcomes; Health-related quality of life in patients with coronary heart disease; Cost-effectiveness of cardiac rehabilitation; Epidemiology of physical activity in the prevention and rehabilitation of persons at risk of or diagnosed with coronary heart disease

ACSM Service:

Vice President, ACSM Foundation, 1993-1995; President, 1990-1991; Fellow, 1976

What first inspired you to enter the exercise science/sports medicine field? What made you decide to pursue your advance degree and/or line of research/service?

I was offered a swimming scholarship to the University of Florida and became interested in exercise physiology, which then took me to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a student, who were your mentors and what role did they play in your professional development? As a professional, was there anyone who was also instrumental in your career development?

Dr. Bruno Balke, Dr. Fran Nagle and Dr. Karl Stoedefalke were instrumental in my continuing to work toward my PhD

What is it about exercise science/sports medicine that still inspires you today?

The anticipation of what comes next when research findings are shared.

Why and how did you decide to get involved with ACSM? How did your service help you grow as a professional? How do you feel you were able to get elected to its highest position?

As a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it was a given that you would attend the ACSM Annual Meeting, and your willingness to get involved with committee work demonstrated your commitment to ACSM.

What are your most memorable moments from your service to ACSM?

First, being appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee and later by being appointed as the chair. Second, being elected as president-elect, and third, by forming collegial and personal relationships with other members of the college.

How did you become a Fellow and in what year? How do you feel that played a role in your development as a professional?

I was recommended to the board in 1976.

What were some of the main issues confronting ACSM at the time of your presidency?

The ACSM Foundation was registered in 1983 with one of the objectives to increase funding to support various ACSM initiatives. The need to establish a Strategic Planning Committee that met on a regular basis was approved by the board in 1990. The ACSM Foundation established a research endowment fund and an educational endowment fund; this effort has since expanded to include five major ACSM initiatives – the Diversity and Mentorship, the Education Endowment, Clinical Sports Medicine Endowment, Doctoral Student Research Grant and the Research Endowment funds – and 15 named endowment funds.

What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to the field of Exercise Science/ Sports Medicine?

I have had the fortune to collaborate with an exciting group of colleagues in developing two health-related quality of life questionnaires for patients with heart disease that are widely used internationally.

What advice would you have for future leaders of ACSM?

Follow your intuition and create collaborative efforts to meet your goals.

What advice would you give to students who are looking to pursue a career in exercise science/ sports medicine?

Get involved in professional organizations, be prepared to spend many hours developing a field of interest, and put significant energy into working collaboratively.