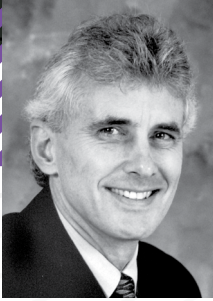


## Meet Our ACSM Past Presidents



### **William O. Roberts, MD, MS, FACS** **ACSM President 2004-05**

#### **Education:**

B.S., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, 1974

M.D., University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN, 1978

M.S., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1981

Residency, Family Medicine, Smiley's Point Clinic University of Minnesota

Department of Family Practice and Community Health, Fairview Downtown and St.

Mary's Hospitals Minneapolis, MN, 1978-81

#### **Current or most recent affiliation:**

Professor, Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs, Department of Family Medicine and  
Community Health,

University of Minnesota Medical School, Twin Cities Campus, Minneapolis, MN

#### **Honors & Awards:**

Hall of Fame, Minnesota State High School League, Brooklyn Center, MN, 2022

Executive Director Award of Distinction, 40 Years of Service to Twin Cities in Motion, Minneapolis, MN  
2022

Academy for Excellence in Clinical Practice, University of Minnesota Medical School, 2020

Innovation & Research Award, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians Family Medicine, 2020

Honor Award, American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Indianapolis, IN 2015

Merit Award, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, St Louis Park, MN, 2013

Citation Award, ACSM, Indianapolis, IN, 2008

#### **Professional Interests:**

Integrating physical activity into the care of healthy and unhealthy patients

Endurance medicine and race administration

Exertional heat stroke

Athlete collapse during activity

Environmental medicine (heat, cold, altitude)

Preparticipation medical evaluation for athletes

#### **ACSM Service:**

I have had the opportunity to participate in many committees and leadership roles.

President, 2004-2005

President – American College of Sports Medicine Foundation, 2008-2012

Chair – Executive Committee, 2004-2005

Chair – Administrative Council, 2004-2005

Chair – Board of Trustees, 2004-2005

Executive Committee Member, 2003-2009

Media Advocacy Committee, 2005-Present

Ethics Committee, 2022-Present

Constitution, Bylaws, and Operating Codes Committee, 2022-Present

Clinical Medicine Leadership Committee, 2003- 2018

Past President – American College of Sports Medicine Foundation, 2012- 2013

Task Force on Annual Meeting Abstract Publishing, 2012-2017

Strategic Planning Committee, 1990-2013

Program Committee, 1997-2017

Task Force for the Development Plan for the ACSM – USADA Initiative for Combating Doping in Sports, 2007-2015  
Chair – Special Work Group on Evidence Based Literature, 2007-2012  
ACSM Foundation Executive Committee, 2006-2012  
Past Presidents Committee, 2006-2012  
Budget and Finance Committee, 2006-2012  
ACSM Foundation Board, 2003-2012  
Ethics Committee, 2008-2011  
Publications Committee, 2006-2009  
Nominations Committee, 2001-2009  
Chair – Past Presidents Committee, 2006-2007  
Chair – Strategic Planning Committee, 2005-2006  
Chair – Nominations Committee, 2005-2006  
Executive Committee, 2003-2006  
ACSM Foundation Planning Group, 2003-2006  
Administrative Council, 2001-2006  
Awards and Tributes Committee, 2001-2006  
Budget and Finance Committee, 2001-2005  
Advancement Committee, 2001-2005  
CME Committee Representative, Northland Chapter, 2000-2005  
Distance Learning Task Force, 1998-2005  
Medical Education (CME) Committee, 1990-2005  
Chair – Awards and Tributes Committee, 2003-2004  
Chair – Program Committee, 2003-2004  
Chair – Nominations Committee, 2003-2004  
Chair – Medical Education (CME) Committee, 1998-2004  
First Vice President, 2002-2003  
Pronouncements Committee, 1998-2003  
CME Committee Representative, Greater New York Chapter, 2000-2003  
Corporate Relations Task Force, 1999-2003  
Medicine Task Force, 1998-2003  
Second Vice President, 2001-2002  
Credentials Committee, 1998-2001  
Chair, Share the Experience Committee, 1998-2000  
Chair, ACSM International Team Physician Course Committee, Guatemala City, Guatemala Practice, 1998-1999  
Board of Trustees, 1995-1999  
Co-Chair, ACSM Team Physician Course, 1994-1999  
Certificate of Added Qualification Course Committee, 1996-1997  
Constitution Bylaws and Operating Codes Committee, 1988-1997  
Chair, Constitution, Bylaws, and Operating Codes, 1990-1996  
Committee on Committees Committee, 1994-1995  
Program Committee, 1994-1995  
Leadership Development Committee, 1992-1995  
Clinical Publication Task Force, 1992-1995  
Governance Task Force, 1991-1995  
CME Committee Representative, Northland Chapter, 1991-1993  
CME Committee Representative, Northwest Chapter, 1990-1991

**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 enjoyed caring for athletes and found that exercise physiology helped me better understand the reasons for injury and illness in athletes.

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?

As a resident in training, I pursued a master's degree that put me in front of Bob Serfass, PhD, FACSM who guided me toward ACSM.

**Are there any students who you feel you have mentored that have gone to play any significant roles within ACSM?**

Bill Dexter and Liz Joy are both past presidents.

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

The athletes, the scientists, and the care teams.

**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?**

“People go where they are invited and stay where they feel welcome.” The first annual meeting I attended in 1982 –which happened to be in Minneapolis so I could afford the meeting – hooked me on the ASCM. I have not missed an annual meeting since. ACSM embodied what I hoped to be in medicine, so it was easy to volunteer for the organization that was helping me grow as a sports medicine physician. There were no fellowships for family physicians in 1982, and most declared sports medicine physicians were orthopedic surgeons; it took a long time for coaches and the public to catch up with the concept of non-orthopedists as team and sports physicians. ACSM helped move that ahead for me and others of my generation.

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

- The staff and members that I was able work with during my leadership and committee roles.
- Calling award winners with the news of an honor or citation award.
- The Team Physician Course faculty and planning group.
- Working with the International Team Physician groups.
- Visiting cities that I would not have had the annual meeting not been there.
- Committee dinners at meeting in Indy where I got to know a lot of people.
- Working with CSMR.

**How did you become a fellow, and in what year?**

I applied for and became a fellow in 1986. As I was leaving my first annual meeting, I saw a box that said “Become a fellow.” I took two copies and put one up in my office and one at home. I marked each milestone on the path to application.

**How do you feel that played a role in your development as a professional?**

ACSM was integral to my development as a sports physician in practice, research and writing. ACSM opened doors that I did not know existed when I started my career, and my life has been richer for the experience gained through ACSM.

Presenting at the annual meeting put me in front of journal editors who “recruited” my materials. I would probably not have published my first manuscript without the boost from these folks who invested the time to work with an unseasoned author.

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

- Diversity and equity
- Programming equity
- Membership and annual meeting fees
- Keeping everyone rowing the boat together
- Publishing clinically relevant manuscripts for our members and physicians at large

***What do you think are your most meaningful contributions to the field of exercise science/ sports medicine?***

Athlete safety and care in road racing, endurance medicine, youth ice hockey, exertional heat stroke, hyponatremia and concussion. All a result of collaborations and knowledge gained from ACSM involvement.

***What advice would you have for future leaders of ACSM?***

People go where they are invited and stay where they feel welcome. ACSM is a great organization that deserves your attention and leadership skills. ACSM will advance on your shoulders and cannot thrive on its past.

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

Exercise science and medicine have great opportunities for your careers. Follow your heart and you will find something to keep you coming back to work every day.