

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- DR. LEWIS YOCUM—LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF ANAHEIM
- DR. LEWIS YOCUM—FAMILY and FRIENDS
- DR. LEWIS YOCUM—PBATS PRESIDENTS
- DR. LEWIS YOCUM—PBATS HALL OF FAME

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DR. LEWIS YOCUM

“He was a dear friend and mentor. We both started together in 1978 and had been together for 36 years. One of our best moments was the 2002 World Championship during our 25th year together.

Dr. Yocum was a family man, humble, a gentleman, witty, had a dry sense of humor, dedicated, honest, sincere, grateful and always looked after the best interests of his patients no matter who they were.

We were both “foodies” and loved chasing great restaurants, food, cigars. When we had dinner together (and we had many) we almost always talked about our families, friends, food, and our travels.

Dr. Yocum always had time for everyone from the owner of the team, a summer intern, a bat boy, or another physician.

He was a brilliant surgeon but almost always preferred to take the conservative route with therapy, prehab, rehab, and exercise programs.

He was the best teacher I ever had and was always willing to share his knowledge, wisdom, and expertise.

He was always very proud of the educational values and opportunities that PBATS made available and also what PBATS stood for.

He was our rock in the Angels sports medicine department, the Angels family, and Major League Baseball.

I miss him terribly.”



Rick Smith

Assistant Athletic Trainer—Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF ANAHEIM—ADAM NEVALA

“Dr. Yocum's indelible mark for his 35+ years of loyalty to the Angels family is only the beginning of who he was as a physician and surgeon, but also as a person. He had a profound impact on my career not only at the Major League level but also as a minor league athletic trainer starting off. He always took the time to make sure the best interest of the player (at any level) was first and foremost. Lew's dry, witty, and timely sense of humor was sure to make a difficult situation seem a little more positive. He was the rock of the Angels Organization for many years from a medical perspective. His calmness and expertise spoke loudly although his voice was soft and to the point. I knew I could diffuse a potential volatile situation with the simple phrase: "Let's see what Lew says and go from there". He often times was the first, second, and third opinion. I could recall early in my athletic training career starting off in the minor leagues, I would give Dr. Yocum a call regarding a player and couldn't help but think I was pulling him away from someone in his office likely the who's who of the sports world. He never made you feel like you were monopolizing his time.

My respect and love for the man only grew the longer I had the pleasure to work closely with him. Understanding that he didn't just treat athletes but also business men, weekend warriors, friends of friends, and whoever were so lucky to call him their doctor. His goal was to help people and not get his name printed in the paper saving careers of top athletes. He didn't measure his level of success by the names on surgery schedule. Lew prided himself on who he didn't operate on rather than who he did. His conservative approach entrusted the athletic trainers and physical therapists. Although he was one of the best surgeons in the country, surgery was always the last option. However, once the crossroads were reached, his true passion was in the operating room. Lew loved every bit of helping others in only a way he could.

As he fought his quiet and brave battle with a terminal disease, he continued to give his time to us at the stadium covering games and accepting phone calls at all hours of the day. It was only when he was physically unable to do so that we did not see one of the most influential figures in my life walk into the now called "Dr. Lewis Yocum Athletic Training Room" at Angels Stadium and I miss him every day.

Thank you to Beth, Donald, and Laura for sharing your husband/father with us for I know he was a family man above all.”

Adam Nevala

Head Athletic Trainer—Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

DON YOCUM

“He was my best friend. He was an amazing father and a very good man. I feel so lucky to have had him as my dad. He had accomplished so much in life with his practice, MLB, PBATS, KJOC, Sports Medicine, but none of that mattered when he got home. He was just "Pops". He taught me so much about life, family, and what really matters in life. His number 1 priority was always us, his family.

He worked so hard to get where he did in his career, just so that we could have a great life. He was truly, the most honest and devoted man I have ever met. He always taught me, that no matter what you do in life, you be the best that you can be at it. He devoted his life to helping others and bettering other people. It wasn't till his passing that I realized the magnitude of what he had accomplished in his life. He never spoke in detail about his day, or who he was seeing, often just saying, "it was a tough day at the office". It was with this same humility that he faced his cancer and death. He trudged through the treatments, doctor appointments, chemo, and everything else that comes with cancer and was still concerned with making sure his patients were taken care of and that he returned the calls of people who were seeking his opinion. He truly believed in doing his job until the end.

I miss our weekly sushi dinners, our cigars and port, talking about nothing important and now realizing how important those "nothing" conversations are. He was my dad, my best friend, and my teacher. I miss him everyday.”

Don Yocum
Son of Dr. Lewis Yocum

KERLAN JOBE CLINIC—SUE O'DRISCOLL

“He was a devoted family man and dedicated physician considered a mentor by many physicians, physical therapists and athletic trainers. Yet he was always so humble and down to earth. I am extremely privileged to have worked with him for the past nine years. He will be greatly missed by all of us who worked with him at Kerlan Jobe, and we especially will miss his sense of humor and ability to always make us laugh.”

Sue O'Driscoll
Practice Coordinator—Dr. Lewis Yocum
Kerlan-Jobe Clinic

PAST PBATS PRESIDENT—KENT BIGGERSTAFF

“For as far back as I can remember, Dr. Yocum has always been an impressive member of the sports medicine community. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of knowing him on many different scenarios all of which proved to me how great a person he was. He always had the highest respect for the athletic trainers in baseball and did everything he could to make things easier for us. We were always able to get expedited appointments which made us look good to our GM’s, even when our evaluations might have been slightly different than his, he made it a point to say that he initially agreed with us until he had access to more elaborate testing so that we still looked good to our players. All the efforts he made with the Baseball Medicine conference in order to provide us with continuing our educational endeavors which helped us give better treatments and rehab for our players. Most importantly though is that he was always there for us and in addition to being a great orthopedic surgeon, he was a wonderful person.”

Kent Biggerstaff

Former Head Athletic Trainer—Pittsburgh Pirates,
PBATS President 1994-1999



The Yocum Family with CJ Wilson

PAST PBATS PRESIDENT—JAMIE REED

“I always considered Lew Yocum the team physician for the American League. I remember the times when we would take injured players on the west coast trips just so Lew could take a look at them. And he always would. Always honest, Always a friend of ATC's.

The other memory I will always have of Lew is the fact that he would shut his practice down every year to run the Team Baseball Conference around the country. I am sure sometimes at a financial loss to him. But he believed with all his heart that it was the best thing to do for baseball at every level, amateur and professional. To help every player get the best treatment, best pre-hab, best rehab. Lew had a wonderful passion for life. I consider myself Blessed to have had Lew as a friend and will always be grateful for having the opportunity to speak at his last Conference in Baltimore, January 2013.”

Jamie Reed

Head Athletic Trainer—Texas Rangers,
PBATS President 2002-2007

RICHIE BANCELLS, PBATS PRESIDENT

“The passing of Lew Yocum, MD is a tremendous loss for PBATS, the baseball community, and for me personally. For as long as I can remember, Lew has been a huge supporter for the mission of PBATS. He deeply believed in the educational goals that our Society put forward. AS for the baseball community, there are countless players who owe the continuance and probably the existence of their baseball careers. Through his successful surgical techniques many players were able to play the game for a much longer period of time. It is interesting how Lew's humble nature downplayed what he did in the operating room as he used to tell the players that the outcome of the surgery was only as good as the work done in rehabilitation. This is where his constant communication and education during the rehab process brought him and many athletic trainers close together.

Lew's devotion to education was best seen through the PBATS Baseball Team Medicine Conference, of which he was the original composer . His passion for this conference brought together many experts over the years to share in their specific fields and thereby enhancing the field of baseball medicine. For me personally, I had the opportunity to work with Lew in organizing, speaking at, and putting on three of these conferences in Baltimore. the most recent was the last one in January of 2013. Lew was always striving for excellence in this conference while giving the attendees what they wanted to learn and what they wanted to take home. I learned these valuable lessons from him while organizing these conferences. A short story; during the last conference in Baltimore a young athletic trainer came up to me to say how great the conference was and how much she was enjoying it. She had been given the tuition for the conference as a Christmas gift from her parents and was so happy the conference was as good as it was and was learning so much. Of course, I could not wait to find Lew and tell him this story. I will never forget the look of satisfaction and the smile on his face when he said to me, "that is why we do it".

For me, Lew's passing was the loss of an educator, a tireless worker who was devoted to his patients and mostly, the loss of a friend. I like closing my eyes and seeing his engaging smile and hearing his capturing laughter.”

Richie Bancells
 Head Athletic Trainer—Baltimore Orioles,
 PBATS President 2008-Present

PAST PBATS PRESIDENT—JEFF COOPER

“I was honored to be in attendance for the Memorial Service for Lew Yocum on June 22nd in Manhattan Beach, CA. The American Martyrs Church was a sorrowing yet joyful place where family and friends celebrated his life. Dr. Yocum impacted every individual in attendance in many different positive ways. His wisdom and calm demeanor made everyone he touched feel enlightened and secure. Dr. Yocum was as dedicated to the amateur athlete as he was to the professional. He was dedicated to the profession of athletic training and our education. Dr. Yocum embraced the professional baseball medical community as we shared the common goals of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. PBATS is certainly proud of our Honorary Member and his accomplishments both personally and professionally. It is now our duty to continue the Baseball Medicine Conference to educate others. Dr. Yocum's vision and energy brought it to life. PBATS will continue to support the Conference in his memory.

Jeff Cooper
 Former Head Athletic Trainer—Philadelphia Phillies
 PBATS President 1990—1993, NATA Hall of Fame

PAST PBATS PRESIDENT—CHARLIE MOSS

“In the early beginnings of PBATS, there was much skepticism and concerns about the formation of an organization of baseball athletic trainers within the structure of Major League Baseball. There were many critics that were openly questioning the thought process of the athletic trainers that were forming such a group. Through all of the clouds of uncertainty, one physician steadfastly supported the athletic trainers and their goals, ideals, and aspirations in the formation of PBATS. Dr. Lewis Yocum was that individual who wholeheartedly encouraged the athletic trainers of Major League Baseball to continue on their path of what has become a major force and contributor in the care and prevention of injuries to baseball players from Little League through the Major Leagues. Dr. Yocum was always available for advice and expertise in a variety of topics that were important to the success of PBATS. He was a vital organizer of off-season seminars for information regarding baseball injuries and rehabilitation. These seminars were of paramount importance in showing Major League Baseball that PBATS was a valuable and viable avenue for the advancement of athletic medicine in all stages of baseball. The influence of Dr. Yocum was a tremendous asset to PBATS becoming the fantastic organization that it is today.

It was always a highlight, of a trip to Anaheim, to have the opportunity to see Lew and exchange greetings. He was always available to examine and evaluate any injuries or concerns that were presented to him. Lew's great personality, demeanor, expertise, knowledge and experience made him a reliable source for consultation with visiting players and athletic trainers. He would always make everyone feel comfortable and confident with his analysis of any situation. Even though we did not use Dr. Yocum on each trip to the Angels, it was always a wonderful experience just to say "hi" to Lew and exchange pleasantries.

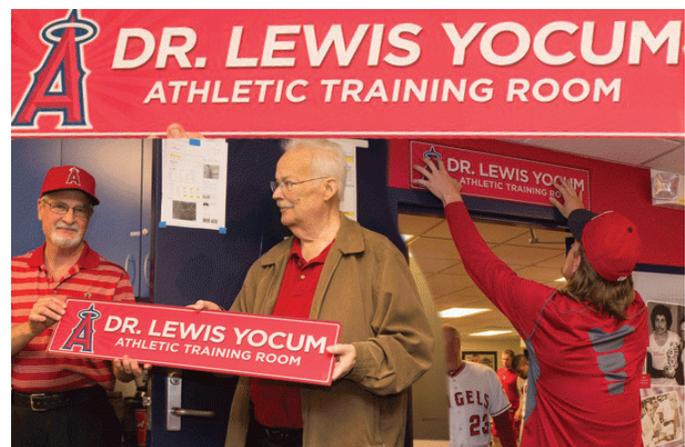
All past, present, and future members of PBATS owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Dr. Lewis Yocum. We have all been blessed to have had the opportunity to know and admire him. It has been an incredible blessing to have known a wonderful physician, a tremendous PBATS supporter and most of all, a dear and cherished friend. We should honor his legacy and memory by continuing to advance the goals and aims of PBATS for which he was such an ardent supporter.”

Charlie Moss,
Former Head Athletic Trainer—Boston Red Sox
PBATS President—1983-1989

COMMISSIONER—Allan H. “Bud” Selig

“Dr. Lewis Yocum was a giant in the field of sports medicine. He was an invaluable resource to not only the Angels franchise but players throughout all of Major League Baseball, team physicians and the members of the Professional Baseball Athletics Trainers Society. All of our Clubs relied upon Dr. Yocum’s trusted opinion and judgment. Throughout the last 36 years, the lives and careers of countless players benefited from his pioneering expertise, and he made our game on the field better as a result. On behalf of Major League Baseball, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Beth, their children, their friends and his many admirers.”

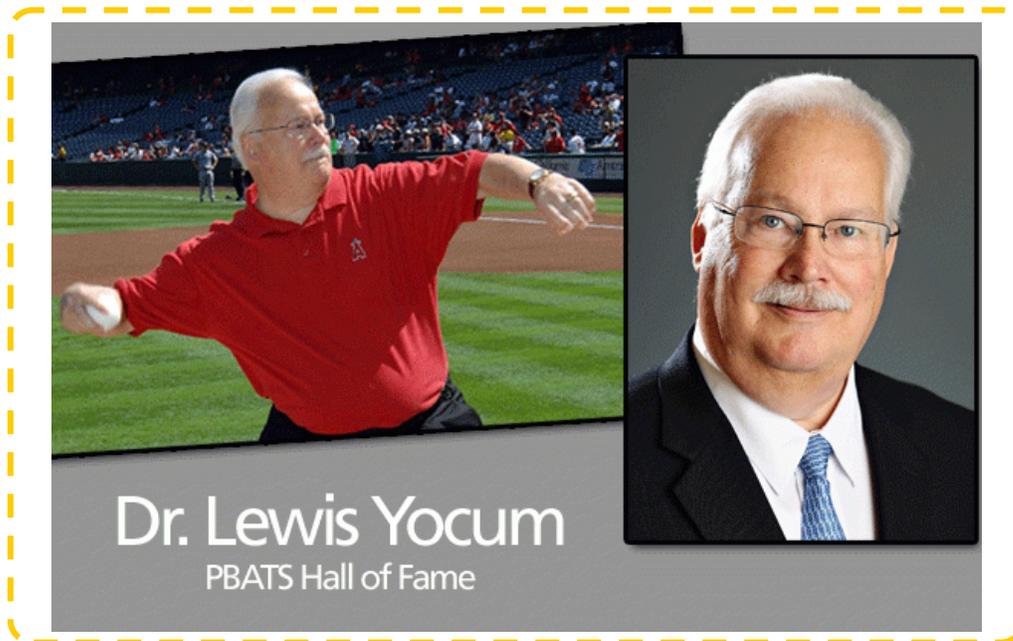
Allan H. “Bud” Selig
Commissioner, MLB



MEDICAL DIRECTOR—DR. GARY GREEN

“Dr. Yocum was truly a leader in the field of sports medicine, as well as a friend, colleague and mentor to so many. He played a pivotal role in the MLB Team Physician’s Association as well as influencing the practice of sports medicine throughout baseball for several decades. During these years he treated countless numbers of players from every organization. Dr. Yocum was the author of numerous scientific publications and trained fellows who will continue his legacy of expertise in the field that was combined with trust and integrity. We owe him tremendous gratitude for his clinical and academic insight, but more importantly for his enduring friendship. He will be missed by those who knew him and for the impact he had on orthopedics and sports medicine. The Team Physician’s Association has created an annual Lew Yocum Memorial Lecture at the Winter Meetings that will be a constant reminder of the influence that he had on our sport and appreciation for his dedication and collegiality.”

Gary Green, MD
Medical Director, MLB



PBATS HALL OF FAME—DR. LEWIS YOCUM

By Zachary Reed, Originally Posted on PBATS.COM—6/5/2013

The Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society (PBATS) announced Wednesday, June 5th, that Dr. Lewis Yocum, long-time team physician for the Los Angeles Angels, has been elected to the PBATS Hall of Fame. Dr. Yocum becomes the third member of the Hall of Fame, following Dave Pursley and Dr. Frank Jobe who were both elected in 2012.

Dr. Yocum, who recently lost his battle with cancer, was an orthopedic surgeon that served as the team doctor for the Los Angeles Angels for many years. PBATS will hold a ceremony at the 2013 Major League Baseball Winter Meetings in Orlando, Fla., in his honor.

“We are honored to induct Dr. Yocum into the PBATS Hall of Fame,” Seattle Mariners Head Athletic Trainer and the Head of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee Rick Griffin said. “He was imperative in the field of sports medicine, and the number of baseball careers he personally saved in itself is amazing. As good of a doctor as he was, he was an even better person, and we are privileged to have him in our Hall of Fame.”

Dr. Jobe, the first doctor to try the ulnar collateral ligament replacement surgery now known as Tommy John Surgery, hired Dr. Yocum out of medical school in 1977. Shortly after he was hired, Dr. Yocum devised a way to simplify and shorten the procedure.

While he served as the Angels team doctor, he acted more like Major League Baseball’s team doctor, performing surgeries on many players league-wide. Yocum performed surgeries on Stephen Strasburg, Jordan Zimmerman, Dustin Pedroia, Jacoby Ellsbury, Ted Lilly, and Joakim Soria, to name a few.

Dr. Yocum passed away over the last weekend of May. He was 65 years old. A private funeral will be held June 22 in Los Angeles, Calif.