



## 2021 Distinguished Alumnus

Russell F. Warren, MD '66



Dr. Warren examines x-rays with other HSS sports medicine staff at Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis.

Russell F. Warren, MD '66, surgeon-in-chief emeritus at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, is a pioneer in the field of orthopaedic surgery, specializing in shoulder and knee surgery. He is co-developer of the Biomet Comprehensive Shoulder system, the most widely used shoulder replacement system in the world. Over five decades, Dr. Warren has trained hundreds of orthopedic surgeons at Weill Medical College and HSS. He has also spent 40 years caring for elite athletes as team doctor for the New York Giants.

Warren was born in 1939 in Burlington, Vermont, and received his bachelor's degree from Columbia College, where he played football and baseball. He pursued medical study at Upstate Medical University,

earning his medical degree in 1966. He then completed a one-year surgical residency at St. Luke's Hospital in New York before serving as a Lt. Commander for the U.S. Navy for two years during Vietnam. He received the U.S. Navy Medal of Commendation in 1969.

Following his Naval service, Warren returned to New York and completed a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery and a fellowship in shoulder surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He also began his teaching career in orthopaedics at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, where he served as chair of orthopedic surgery from 1994-2003 and is currently professor of surgery. At HSS, Warren served as head of the shoulder and sports medicine services from 1981-1993,



Giants team physician Russell Warren, MD '66, confers with Jason Pierre-Paul during Super Bowl XLVI in February 2012.

and as surgeon-in-chief from 1993-2003. Under his leadership, HSS grew from approximately 6,000 to 20,000 surgeries annually. It is ranked as the number one orthopedic program in the United States and is home to the top-ranked orthopedic residency in the United States. Warren has been a member of the board of trustees since 1993 and is currently surgeon-in-chief emeritus.

For 10 years, Warren was director of the HSS Soft Tissue Research Lab. Discoveries from the laboratory have advanced progress toward better treatments that reduce pain and restore mobility for patients with soft tissue injuries of the shoulder and knee. Warren has published more than 500 papers and given more than 1,000 invited talks, most in his specialties of knee and shoulder surgery, specifically

pertaining to ligament injury (ACL & PCL), shoulder instability, cartilage loss and repair, arthroscopic rotator cuff repair and stabilization and shoulder replacement surgery. He holds numerous patents, many related to the shoulder replacement system he helped develop. In 2005, HSS established the Russell F. Warren Research Chair in soft tissue research to ensure this area of study continues in perpetuity. He has served as editor in chief of *Techniques in Shoulder and Elbow Surgery* since 1999.

In 1984, Warren became team physician for the New York Giants, treating athletes in residence during training camp, performing physicals each Wednesday during the season, and on the sidelines during games. Through his association, numerous HSS fellows received hands-on

**"I've always been one that liked variety. I don't like doing the same thing two days in a row."**

sports medicine training and have gone on to become head team physicians throughout the National Football League. Warren was named team physician emeritus in 2015.

Warren served as president of both the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) and the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (ASES), an organization he helped found. He has received AOSSM's O'Donoghue Award for Sports Medicine Research three times since 1982 along with the Humana Award for Clinical Research in 1992 and Mr. Sports Medicine in 2003. He has received the prestigious Neer Award for basic science research from the ASES in 1989, 1995, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2010 and the Jerry "Hawk" Rhea Award for Outstanding NFL Team Physician in 2004. He has also received numerous honors for teaching.

Warren continues to work full time, teaching, treating patients and performing surgeries, conducting research, and caring for New York Giants athletes.