



Honoring the Memory of a Mizzou Orthopaedics and TLRO Icon



Dr. Robert T. Littlejohn, an icon of Mizzou Orthopaedics and the TLRO, passed away in Lee’s Summit, MO on September 25 at the age of 84. Dr. Littlejohn was born on February 13, 1935 near Higginsville, MO. He received his bachelor’s and medical degree from the University of Missouri. In 1961, he married Marilyn Scott and after completing his residency in orthopaedic surgery, entered private practice while settling in Prairie Village, KS.

In 2013, Dr. Robert and Mrs. Marilyn Littlejohn received the Making a Difference Award in recognition of their support, encouragement, and inspiration. Their generosity ensures the success of the Littlejohn Family Keynote Lecture at the annual Comparative Orthopaedics Day event where life-changing results of research carried out at Missouri Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) are presented. Memorial contributions made to MU’s Cook Family Orthopaedic Research Endowment will be used to advance research at MOI targeting the diseases and disorders of the bones and joints that Dr. Littlejohn spent his life’s work treating in patients. [Click here to view obituary.](#)

Current Projects

- DoD Meniscal Allograft Comparison Study
- Canine & Human Hip Dysplasia Biomarkers
- Sex Differences in ACL Graft Healing
- Mizzou Knee Arthrometer Testing System
- Bone Quality after Bariatric Surgery
- Partial Thickness Rotator Cuff Tear Repair
- Biomarkers for IVD Disease
- Updating Skeletal Maturity Methods
- BioJoint® Flex Knee Rehab System
- Motion Analysis for Risk of Injury
- Mizzou Sports Science Program
- Immunology of Osteochondral Allograft Bone

Last Quarter’s “Top 5”

1. Seven TLRO graduates receive their white coats as they begin their medical training
2. Melanie Boeyer receives Gamma Alpha Gamma Dissertation Fellowship Award
3. Muhammad Salim presents at Capitol Hill and wins research award
4. Dr. Bree Baker wins MU Postdoctoral Association Poster Presentation Award
5. Dr. Naomi Lee receives Douglas D. Randall Young Scientists Scholarship

Recent Pubs

1. Stoker AM, et al. Metabolic responses of osteochondral allografts to re-warming. *J Orthop Res* 2019
2. Chastain KS, et al. Metabolic responses of meniscal tissue to focal collagenase degeneration. *Conn Tiss Res* 2019
3. Thomas DM, et al. Biomechanical properties of bioabsorbable fixation for osteochondral shell allografts. *J Knee Surg* 2019
4. Lewis RA, et al. Knee ultrasonography to determine risk for noncontact injuries in collegiate football. *J Knee Surg* 2019
5. Cook JL. Bone marrow aspirate biologics for OCA – because we can or because we should? *Arthroscopy* 2019
6. Kuroki K, et al. Histologic assessment of ligament vascularity and synovitis in dogs with CCLD. *Am J Vet Res* 2019
7. Tarafder S, et al. Effect of dose and release rate of CTGF and TGFβ3 on avascular meniscal healing. *J Orthop Res* 2019
8. Keeney JA, et al. Incisional negative pressure wound therapy devices following hip and knee arthroplasty. *J Arthroplasty* 2019
9. Albuquerque JB, et al. Onlay reconstruction of the PCL: Comparison of unicortical and bicortical tibial fixation. *J Knee Surg* 2019
10. Oladeji LO, et al. Cooled radiofrequency ablation for treatment of OA-related knee pain. *J Knee Surg* 2019
11. Franklin SP, et al. T1rho, T2 mapping and EPIC-uCT imaging in a canine model of osteochondral injury. *J Orthop Res* 2019
12. Skelley NW, et al. Three-dimensional printing technology in orthopaedics. *JAAOS* 2019
13. Bridgeman JT, et al. Bioskills lab and its role in training the modern orthopaedic surgeon. *GCMS J* 2019