



**Thomas C. Pagedas, MD**

**City:** Brookfield, WI

**Date of Graduation from Medical School:** 1958

**Medical School Graduated From:** Indiana University School of Medicine

**Specialty:** Orthopedic Surgery

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**What factors influenced your decision to become a physician and your choice of specialty?**

There were many factors, but the one that stands out was an episode when I was five years old. I was experiencing a severe earache (before the antibiotic era) and our family doctor made a house call. He had to catch me first because I was running away from him. Subsequently, he performed a myringotomy under drop ether anesthesia. When I woke up, I was relieved to be free of pain.

Orthopedic surgery was a “natural” for me. I was always interested in wood working, repairing broken objects, making model planes, etc.

**Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?**

In general, it is rewarding to see a patient return to normal function after I’ve been able to treat a fracture or do reconstructive surgery on an extremity.

**As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice was most valuable to you?**

Be a good listener.

**What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?**

Total joint replacement; arthroscopic surgery.