Dr. Willis C. Campbell opened his practice in Memphis in 1909 and went on to achieve national and international recognition as a pioneer in many areas of the young field of orthopaedics. One of Dr. Campbell’s greatest accomplishments was the establishment of the nation’s first orthopaedic residency program. The Campbell Clinic program, established in conjunction with the University of Tennessee medical school in Memphis, began in 1924 with four residents. The program enabled a select group of young physicians to continue their education and training in this emerging specialty.

Today, the University of Tennessee-Campbell Clinic Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program, which is supported by The Campbell Foundation, ranks in the top eight percent of orthopaedic residency programs in the nation. The curriculum offers a careful balance between academic and theoretical learning and practical experience, with focus on patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

Residents are instructed and mentored by faculty members from the Campbell Clinic staff in each of the rotation subspecialties: general orthopaedics, pediatric orthopaedics, trauma, sports medicine, hand, foot and ankle, spine, total joint surgery, and orthopaedic oncology. Beginning as a three-year program, the residency program now encompasses five years of study and training in the development of surgical skills, research, and compassionate patient care.

A total of 40 full-time residents participate in the program, with eight residents enrolled in each year’s class. More than 400 top medical school graduates apply annually for the eight open positions. Campbell’s residency program has trained more than 450 physicians practicing throughout the United States and South America.