

Dr. Peter Clark Becomes Olympic Physician



Peter Clark, MD, Sierra Park Family Medicine Clinic at Mammoth Hospital, recently signed on to provide sports medicine and general medical care for the U.S. Olympic Committee. As an Olympic doctor, he will be caring for predominantly sports injuries that arise in athletes from many disciplines. This winter, he will be working at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, at the snowboard alpine, half-pipe and snowboardcross events.

As an Olympic Provider Volunteer, part of his role has been as the covering physician for the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista over the summer. There are three Olympic Training Centers nationwide: Lake Placid, Colorado Springs and Chula Vista; competitors of many types that are chosen by their national governing bodies go there to train, for consultation with physiologists and coaches regarding performance improvement, and to rehabilitate injuries. “The variety of athletes present was the most interesting aspect,” stated Dr. Clark. “For instance, at that time there were athletes from track and field, bobsled, skeleton, archery and women’s softball training at the Center. I’d never actually met a bobsled athlete, nor been exposed to the intense training routine that these unusual sports demand. The exposure made me appreciate the enormous amount of ‘behind the scenes’ training and preparation that goes into the Olympics. There are athletes out there already looking ahead toward the 2010 Olympics—planning strategies that will allow them to peak at the right time. It’s not just an every four-year event. It’s amazing to think that these kids are already thinking every day about a competition that won’t be happening for years. The dedication is impressive.” U.S. Snowboarding, for whom Dr. Clark is the Head Team Physician, will choose their Olympic line-up sometime in January from a deep and talented field that includes many local Mammoth riders.