



Advanced Florida Medical Care
Alexander Sherzer, MD

9200 Bonita Beach Rd.
Suite 206
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
phone: (239) 949-7003
fax: (239) 949-7303

February 12, 2018

I strongly encourage young chess players to take advantage of the U.S. Chess Center programs, which in my experience are unique in their focus on teaching students to think. The Center's approach provides an excellent foundation for becoming a strong chessplayer, with the additional benefit that the skills transfer readily to other important areas of life.

My own history is a case in point. After taking lessons from grandmasters and other teachers for years, my playing strength had not appreciably increased and I was frustrated by my inability to "break through" to the top level of American chess. After changing my approach to the game by using the methods of the Center, it took just a few months to show great results. I became the US High School Champion, won the US Junior Invitational, finished second in the world in the Under-18 World Championship, won the Maryland State Championship, and became an International Master. A few years later, I came within a game of becoming the US Champion and earned the title of International Grandmaster.

Not only did the U.S. Chess Center's methods help me achieve my goals in chess, but I also developed valuable intellectual skills that I use as a doctor. Anyone reading this letter is aware of the skills chess develops in young people: enhanced focus and memory, the benefits of planning ahead, the ability to see things from another's point of view, the perils of complacency, and improved resilience to antisocial influences, to name just a few. The U.S. Chess Center methodology fosters those skills more effectively than any other method I have seen.

Sincerely,

Alexander Sherzer, M.D.