

Stephen Copeland studied medicine at St Bartholomews hospital medical school in London, UK 1965-70. After general surgical training he returned to St. Bartholomews Hospital to the higher surgical orthopaedic rotation programme. In 1977 he was appointed lecturer in upper limb surgery at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London with Professor Lipman Kessel. He began research using shoulder arthroscopy at this time. In 1979 he was appointed Consultant Orthopaedic surgeon at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading .

In 1982 he was awarded the ABC Travelling fellowship to the USA and Canada by the British Orthopaedic Association. At the same time he began teaching the Reading shoulder surgery courses to both British and European Surgeons. These courses have been reproduced in four other countries. He has written four books on shoulder surgery contributed chapters to many standard medical textbooks and authored many peer reviewed scientific papers. He is a past member of the editorial board of the Journal of Bone and Joint surgery . Past president of the British shoulder and elbow surgery society(BESS) , Past president of the European shoulder surgery society(SECEC) and presently Chairman of the International Board of Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (IBSES). He is also a corresponding member of the American shoulder and elbow surgery society (ASES) . He is an honorary member of the shoulder surgery societies of Australia, Spain , Argentina and South Africa. He is made an Honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2004. He was the Robert Jones Lecturer for the British Orthopaedic Association 2005.