

# FAFP OCTOBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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I was hooked by Family Medicine during a six-week Rural Elective Rotation in Central Ohio after my first year of medical school. The variety of practice, the connection with patients and staff, the opportunity to truly impact lives – I knew what I was going to do with my life. I was also immensely grateful to the attending physicians who shared their office, their patients and their time with me. I personally experienced the indelible impact of a competent and compassionate teaching physician.

After medical school and residency in Ohio, my wife and I moved to Texas for a one-year Obstetrics Fellowship. My first real job was being part of a non-profit, faith based, primary care organization in rural, impoverished Southern Indiana. I practiced full-scope Family Medicine and provided Indiana University medical students with an incredible primary care experience. We lived in Southern Indiana for twelve

great years and added three daughters to our family!

We relocated to South Florida seven years ago. I am privileged to be part of Memorial Primary Care and I am grateful for the opportunity to practice medicine here.

I continue to believe that Family Practice is the backbone of our healthcare system. The first doctor and the last doctor that everyone needs is a family doctor. The bulk of care should be provided by Family Physicians. Our best medical students and a much greater percentage of our medical students should go into Family Medicine. The evidence-based, longitudinal, relational model of care results in real benefit for our patients.

I am a student. I aspire to be a lifelong learner. I learn from my patients, my staff, my wife and our daughters. I am part of a group of about thirty family

physicians and appreciate the ongoing educational opportunities in this setting.

I am a teacher. This is part of being a parent. This is also core to being a Family Physician – we teach our patients. I have taught medical students since starting in practice and continue to do so. I treasure these interactions and am confident that each student is shaped in part by the time they spend in my office. I teach at church, the deep truths that give life meaning and purpose.

As this year winds towards its end, I would encourage each of you to take a moment for self-reflection. Be grateful for the abilities and opportunities you have been given. Appreciate those who shaped you into the person you are. Enthusiastically embrace the uncertainty of the future. Commit yourself again to this sacred calling of caring for other human beings.