

FAFP JULY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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My interest in family medicine was sparked by the great family medicine mentors at my medical school, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, OH. Through our FMIG (Family Medicine Interest Group), we were able to participate in all the hands-on workshops for suturing or casting. Using the cast saw for the first time was a scary experience. So much so, that I kept that cast for a long time and even used it at Halloween as part of a costume. The faculty were very enthusiastic about family medicine and actively involved students in trips to regional family medicine and AAFP meetings. As a student, I realized I wanted to be just like my mentors – an academic physician whose passion could influence students to pursue a career in family medicine. Initially, I thought that I would be teaching at the medical school level after my residency at Dayton Community Family Medicine. However, I took my first job at St. Joseph Family Medicine Residency in Mishawaka, IN. This job allowed me to practice full scope family medicine;

delivering babies, inpatient pediatrics and adults, procedures in clinic, etc. I loved being a family doctor and this job allowed me to pursue the many interests I had in the field.

My personal philosophy in academic medicine is that I can teach physicians who will take care of more patients in their career than I could ever do on my own. Currently, I am the associate program director at HCA Florida Healthcare St. Lucie Hospital Family Medicine Residency. Teaching residents helps keep me on my toes. I enjoy discussing the reasoning behind why they should do something, so they gain the knowledge to practice medicine independently, versus me just telling them what they should do. When they have a question that I cannot answer, I enjoy searching for the knowledge so that I can properly educate them. I appreciate the environment to think on the fly with each patient presented. My love for learning is why I pursued a faculty development fellowship at Michigan State University and my MPH from Johns

Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

While I still have a wide variety of interests being a family physician, my passion is with scholarly activity – research and performance improvement. I first pursued learning skills at the faculty development fellowship. Then, while working towards my MPH, I learned more about statistics. I find that not many family physicians are interested in research nor in GME. I have truly found my niche in these areas and love making mandatory participation in scholarly activity less stressful, as well as more enjoyable for all residents and faculty.

Outside of medicine, I am a Disney fanatic and love getting character pictures. I also have a rescue Chihuahua/Jack Russel mix named Spike who loves to play fetch and get belly rubs. I love living in the Florida sunshine and do not miss the cold weather up north; although, I have a sweater on most days in the air conditioning at work.