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My Why: Those 2 words , thank you...

April 2015...the month and year I retired from clinical medicine

The folder was overflowing with notes and letters. Thank you. I will miss you. Thanks. On and on...Letters and those words, thank you, from patients and families were from my patients of many years. These notes were given to me upon my retirement after over 30 years in family medicine These words are magical. They say that all of these studies and training have been worthwhile. This is my WHY- why I specialized and thrived in Family Practice.

Family practice is the combination of the art and the science of medicine. I will tell you my WHY? Why choose Family Practice?

What is Family Practice? Family Practice is about solving puzzles. This is the science of medicine. The foundation of the art of medicine is empathy. After all, what do patients want? They want to be seen, heard, and accepted. To be empathetic, the physician needs to communicate clearly and effectively to patients, families, colleagues and staff. Physicians need to have great listening skills, not hearing but actively listening and understanding. These skills are not only taught in medical school but taught and refine at Toastmasters. The combination of the art and science of medicine is the basis for the trusted patient/physician/family relationship.

Family Practitioners diagnose and treat a wide variety of diseases. Nothing is routine. From a bee in the ear while the patient was swimming in his pool- to being bitten by a swarm of bees. Imagine, a swarm of bees. "Dr Wolf, I need to see you today, it is..."

There are those 2 magical words again, thank you are my WHY! Patients and their families remember your medical care for their entire lifetime. Physicians carry these "thank you" with them their entire lives.

I often think about Family Practice and the number of lives I touched with my gift of healing. I learned and fine-tuned the art and the science of medicine. I enjoyed communicating effectively and actively listening. Thank you for this journey. Find your Why and you will have a great, fulfilling career.