

S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD: Serving the town that welcomed his parents

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Staff News Writer



The AMA "Members Move Medicine" series profiles a wide variety of doctors, offering a glimpse into the passions of women and men navigating new courses in American medicine.

On the move with: S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD, who practices general otolaryngology in his hometown of Flint, Michigan.

AMA member since: 1992.

What inspired me to pursue a career in medicine: My parents moved to this country with their medical education and not much else. I chose to go into medicine to expand on their success by going back to my hometown of Flint and serving the community that welcomed them decades ago.

How I move medicine: Through my work in my county, state and national medical societies. We bear witness to things that aren't perfect about our health care system, but being a witness is not as satisfying as being part of the solution. That is what my activity in organized medicine is: a way to improve the status quo.

Career highlights: I serve on the AMA Board of Trustees and chair the Michigan State Medical Society's board of directors. I also serve on the board of the Crim Fitness Foundation in Flint.

Advice I'd give to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine: Go for it! There will always be "noise" about the turbulence of our profession, but I think this noise has always been there, and our AMA is adept at dealing with it. When the noise is removed, what will always remain is a career that is enormously fulfilling.

Aspect of my work that means the most: Being able to help my hometown and its people. Being an otolaryngologist, I see newborns and senior citizens, pretty healthy people and those that are very ill. I love playing some role in all of their lives by trying to improve their health.

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