Richard Allen, MD: OB-GYN sees organized medicine’s value

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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:** Richard Allen, MD, a retired OB-GYN from the Portland, Oregon, area and past president of the Oregon Medical Association and Colorado Medical Society.

**AMA member since:** 1969.

**What inspired me to pursue a career in medicine:** I was a biology and science major and the idea of having a professional career in medicine was appealing.

**How I move medicine:** I have always been an active participant with my colleagues in organized medicine. I am currently serving as Chair of the AMA Senior Physicians Section, which has helped me to keep in touch with the career I love. The Section has 58,000 members, the majority of whom are still seeing patients.

**Career highlights:** Being named the state’s Doctor-Citizen of the Year by the Oregon Medical Association in 1992; serving as chair of the AMA Council on Medical Education in 1997 and as chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in 1998; and receiving the AMA Distinguished Service Award in 2007 and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

**Advice I’d give to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine:** Study hard and go for it.

**Aspect of my work that means the most:** I enjoy the interaction with patients and teaching young physicians and students.

**How I advocate for physicians and patients:** I have always been a local and state advocate for physicians with legislators and relevant ballot measures.

**My hope for the future of medicine:** That the best and the brightest students pursue a medical career, and continue the legacy of our profession.

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