



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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