

Seeking Excellence...Inspiring Others

2014 Kansas Family Physician of the Year: KEVIN HOPPOCK MD

What is unique about this year's 2014 Kansas Family Physician of the Year? He has been nominated numerous times. He is the recipient of many, many prestigious awards including the KAFP Exemplary Teaching Award, Wichita Business Journal's Best Doctors in Wichita award; 40 under 40 Award (recognizing outstanding professionals under 40 years old); Health Care Hero award, and the UKSM Preceptor in Excellence Award. No doubt all these accomplishments indicate he is a stand-out. But nothing compares to this physician's constant striving for excellence in work, family, life general which naturally inspires others to lead better lives. Letters from patients, colleagues, mentees, friends and community leaders testify to the great repertoire of our 2014 Kansas Family Physician of the Year recipient: **Kevin Hoppock, MD** of Wichita, Kan.

TRUE LOVE

Dr. Hoppock found his soul mate early – at the tender age of 15. He and Lori have been married for 26 years. And like his true love, he also knew at an early age that his calling was to be a physician. "Lori says there has never been a time that I have not declared I wanted to be a doctor. So as far as we can look back, there was that desire. Now I remember back in high school that I loved being around people, I thrived in the midst of people, I really do want to make a difference. The combination of the absolute love for science, passion for people and found energy being around them.... coupled with some of the poorest handwriting around – I was destined for medicine!"

Deciding to go into family medicine was a natural path for Dr. Hoppock. "I kind of always sensed being a generalist was where I would fall but it was when I did internal medicine in July of '87 that I said -- this is it. Until of course I did surgery and I said -- oh this is the coolest thing in the world -- I mean people come in with a complaint, you figure it out, cut it and fix it, send them home so much better, it's just the coolest thing in the world. Until I figured there's no possible way I could enter into a career that didn't involve that magical moment of delivery. Then there was the chance to learn to care for those little guys afterwards. It was just so stinking fun. I want to care for these people from cradle to grave. I want to take care of grandma, baby, pregnant mama, the crisis that happen within those families. I want to grow old with my people. I realized that family medicine was the place that gives you that flexibility



and openness and ability to follow my passions, even as passions change over the years, you have that flexibility to change with it."

GROWING UP

Wichita, Kansas has always been home to Hoppock. Both his parents were from farming families – his father came from southeast Kansas and mother from Arkansas, they settled in Wichita to gain employment at the end of WWII in the aircraft industry. "Dad was a very hardworking man, a man whom I love and respect." As a teenager, Hoppock grew up cutting wood next to his father every weekend. As a college student,

he put that to use and split firewood in the winter for extra money. In the summers he mowed lawns, eventually building his own lawn mowing business, which he kept for 10 years, and helped put him through medical school.

"My wife and I really wanted our children to grow up close to their grandparents, so that was very important. We've visited many wonderful places in the world, but this is the only home we ever wanted," said Hoppock about living in Wichita.

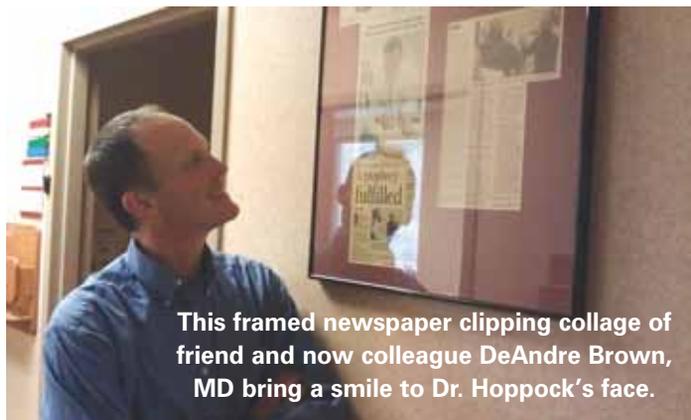
PATIENT CARE

"Caring for patients while protecting and respecting their dignity is a high priority. His patients are fiercely loyal to him because of the investment he makes in their lives both medical and personally," says Chad Schroeder, MD. Dr. Hoppock exceeds expectations by attending funerals, coordinating care and even cutting into his own personal vacation time. Medical mission trips to Haiti where he helped fund an orphanage building that is being named for his mother. Rwanda, Africa and Congo have received his help. He currently serves on his denomination's national mission board.

RELATIONSHIPS

It is no secret that being a great family doctor requires excellent relationships with patients. "The depth and quality of the relationships he forms over a lifetime of serving his patients are important to him," said Angie Prather. Dr. Hoppock has mentored many along the way of his 20 years of practice. One young man particularly stands out in Dr. Hoppock's mind — Deandre Brown. Brown was a teenager at Heights High School. At a sports physical, Dr. Hoppock asks what his plans are for the next year. The conversation:

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This framed newspaper clipping collage of friend and now colleague DeAndre Brown, MD bring a smile to Dr. Hoppock's face.

Brown: "I think I'm gonna be a doctor like you."
 Hoppock: "Really how are your grades?"
 Brown: "I make B's and C's, I'll be okay."
 Brown: "C's aren't going to cut it if you want to be a doctor; you really have to buckle down!"
 Brown: "Well maybe I can come hang with you sometime."
 Brown: "Alright, Deandre, that'd be fine."

Unexpectedly, Brown shows up to Dr. Hoppock's office in dress attire and says, "Yo I thought I'd hang with you today."

Hoppock: "And so I'm thinking, that's not exactly how we do it around here, but I had invited him. He's smiling, and at this point this is his senior year in high school. I sensed that he really was being pretty serious about this thing. I arranged to get him an interview at Wesley for a year, and he joined janitorial services at St. Joseph during college, working hard. I recall a story he told me of him being reprimanded for being dressed inappropriately for work -- he was wearing a black and white shirt and a tie, while he was stripping the wax from the floor. I may be stripping wax off these floors today, but I'm going to be walking these halls in ten years, said Deandre."

Fast forwarding, Brown goes to medical school, becomes an internist, and now works in the Dallas area. "Deandre is a dear, dear friend and very much like a son in many ways. I had the privilege of having the role of his medical guide," said Hoppock.

The fascinating part about this story is to see the changing relationship of patient/physician to student/mentor and lastly to friend and colleague. "Mentoring the next generation who will come along beside us, captures who I am. I enjoy that position and the chance to make a difference," says Hoppock.



The Team: Aaron Guyer, PA, Colleen Lockwood, Kevin Hoppock, MD, Joy Meade and Erica Schmidt.

MOTIVATION

A quote Dr. Hoppock lives by is "Excellence glorifies God and inspires people." He talks about what has inspired him. "At different times in our lives, different things motivate us," he explains. From the early upbringing of a strict German father whom he strived to make proud; to working toward the goal of improving his practice and care of patients; to the positive motivation of those around him...friends, colleagues, church members... all of which have inspired excellence. "Bottom line is to do anything less than our very best is shameful. Regardless of what we have chosen to do and pursue, to do it halfheartedly is to miss out completely. For me, it has always been my goal to seek excellence in everything I do, because it

does inspire others."

MENTORS

One individual who has substantially affected Dr. Hoppock's life was family physician Ray Cook, MD. Dr. Cook passed away last year. Family medicine lost a great doctor, and Dr. Hoppock lost a great mentor. "His passion was primarily his patients, his family, and business associates. He was a great business man,

he had a really incredible

passion for making a difference in different parts of the world," Hoppock says about Cook. Ray Cook helped to found Harvest Partners an organization affiliated with the Nazarene church and the Jesus film. 66 million contacts and 42,000 churches or community groups formed. Dr. Hoppock was amazed by Dr. Cook's ability to grow the organization. That's an impact. "I looked for the person I most wanted to be like in 15 years, and the answer was Ray Cook," said Hoppock. "It took me 6 months to get the courage to ask him to give me the privilege of buying him breakfast every Monday for the next 6 weeks, to just know him. So we started doing that, and it was about our sixth visit that he said, 'I don't think we are done.' We started meeting once a month. There are so many aspects of wisdom that came from that man: how to care for business partners, how to take care of your family, keeping your priorities straight, making sure that your employees are cared for."

WORDS OF WISDOM

Dr. Hoppock gives advice to medical students, "There are many challenges we are going to face: regulatory, financial, economic, social, political, all of those things will involve changes; we won't know what it'll look like, but it will be different, and it will be more challenging. We know

there will be more emphasis on electronic communications, differences in the way that we are paid and the way that we practice medicine. The thing that is not going to change... if we don't allow it to change, and I think we do have some power here... is when you step into a room with a patient, close the door, and say we are not just health care practitioners but have the privilege of becoming physician healers and ask the patient, 'How can I be of value to you?' In that moment you cease to be just another practitioner in the health care system, you really have the ability, and assume that role as physician. You can go ahead and make the pain a

are so fortunate in that you have primary control over your medical business. In fact you control your schedule, therefore you never have an excuse to miss one of your kids' functions. However, you will miss the time and memories you didn't take advantage of."

Dr. Hoppock humbly concludes the interview saying: "I've been so very fortunate to have some opportunities to be a part of the process where we begin to shape the environment in which we practice medicine. I hope I have been a good steward of the gifts, relationships, and opportunities to go ahead and make some difference in that area."

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little less, the hope a little greater. In some words that are not mine: you can give someone the capacity to have a wonderful, wonderful day. Most days you have the opportunity to comfort, and ease the pain. And for every patient, you have the opportunity to care. That's what allows me to come back with enthusiasm to my office every Monday morning."

More words of wisdom from Dr. Hoppock, "As much as I love my patients, they will not be there when I'm on my sickbed. That will be my family. So making sure we care for our own families is so important. Ray Cook told me, 'You

Kevin Hoppock, MD was an undergraduate at Wichita State University; attended University of Kansas School of Medicine for his medical degree; and completed his residency at Wesley Family Medicine Residency Program. In addition to KAFP and AAFP membership, he is a member of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County and a past president of that county society. He is also a past president of the Kansas Medical Society (KMS). He currently serves as Legislative Committee Chair for KMS and MSSC. In addition he serves on the Board of Trustees at Friends University and the Via Christi International Fellowship committee, and is active at Northridge Friends Church.

SAVE THE DATE
SAM Session: June 4 ✦ Annual Meeting: June 5-7, 2014

2014 ANNUAL MEETING
FAMILY MEDICINE:
THE ROAD TO BETTER HEALTHCARE
JUNE 5 - 7, 2014
Overland Park ↔ Marriott Hotel

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No matter what path you are on in your family medicine career, KAFP is your compass for great CME in the state. Please join us at the SAM Session June 4 and on the Road to Better Healthcare June 5-7, 2014 at the Marriott in Overland Park, Kan.