

THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



Joe D. Metcalf II, MD
EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN

For Dr. Joe Metcalf II, practicing medicine is a privilege.

As an emergency room physician, he cares for all patients who come into the emergency room, from infants to the elderly.

“Patient encounters can be as simple as a common cold and as complicated as severe trauma, heart attacks, stroke and sepsis,” Metcalf said.

Since 2015, he has been working with Columbus Community Hospital in the emergency department. Typically, his days are quite busy; he usually works 13-hour shifts.

“There are times when all our rooms are full, and patients are waiting,” said Metcalf. **“That is when we must triage each patient and prioritize which patients need the most urgent care.”**

Metcalf received his bachelor’s degree in physiology from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1986. He then graduated medical school from Oklahoma University

College of Medicine in Oklahoma City in 1990.

In 1995, he completed a dual-specialty residency in both internal medicine and pediatrics. He has since remained board certified in both specialties.

At a young age, Metcalf would occasionally join his father, a physician, when he went to the hospital. It was through these experiences that the younger Metcalf knew he had an interest in medicine.

“I have been fascinated with the practice of medicine and the human body since I was young,” he said. **“I was also attracted to being able to apply advanced science to help those in need of medical care.”**

Since then, Metcalf has practiced hospital-based medicine for 31 years. For eight years, he was the founder and director of hospital medicine at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk, Nebraska. The remaining years of his career have been spent in the emergency room.

Metcalf is thankful for the hospital and its support.

“The hospital is very attentive to our needs and has provided state-of-the-art support to enable the highest level of care for our patients,” Metcalf said.

“It can be very gratifying to meet the physical and emotional needs of each patient in their time of distress,” he added. **“While the career can be personally challenging, the sacrifice is worth it.”**

To learn more about emergency medicine at Columbus Community Hospital, visit columbushosp.org.