

PHYSICIAN SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Patrick
Mulherin**

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

An emergency medicine doctor has to be able to care for anything that's wrong with a patient. To some people, that might seem like a daunting requirement, but to Patrick Mulherin, MD, it's incredibly exciting.

"Every day is different," he said. **"I never know what will walk through those emergency room doors, which is an exciting way to practice medicine."**

Mulherin grew up in Texas, but now he lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife and two sons. He started providing care in Columbus three years ago because he found that working in a small community is incredibly rewarding.

While Mulherin loves the unpredictability of his job, that can also be one of the drawbacks. **"The most challenging part of my job is having to tell people that we aren't able to figure out the reason for their symptoms,"** he said. **"We investigate for the life-threatening causes to a person's symptoms, and oftentimes we don't come up with an answer. Unfortunately, in these situations, we defer to a person's primary care physician, who can look into the other possible causes for a symptom."**

He particularly enjoys working with medical students and residents, helping them apply the lessons they've learned in textbooks to real-life situations. **"Medicine is a profession that ultimately requires on-the-job training,"** he said.

While the emergency room can often be stressful, Mulherin lives by the mantra to **"always be nice,"** he said. **"No matter how mad or frustrated I get, it's important to always be nice."**

His patients and coworkers should know, however, that he may not look like he's "nice." **"I've been told that my facial expression can make me look like I'm mad all the time, but I can assure you that I'm not,"** he said. **"I'm actually a pretty laid-back person, and I'm always happy to help or chat."**

When he's not treating patients in the emergency room, Mulherin enjoys golfing and woodworking, and he especially likes to listen to the music of Willie Nelson and eat authentic Mexican food.

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