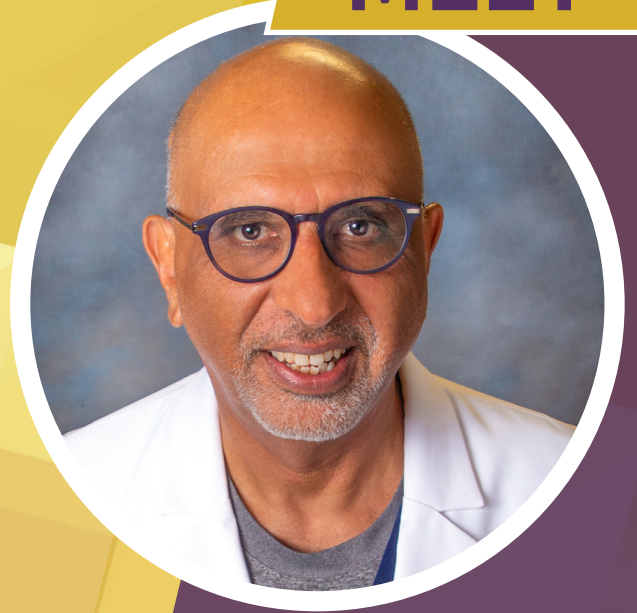


PHYSICIAN SPOTLIGHT



If Dr. Nikunj Kumar Patel could travel anywhere in this world, he would actually choose somewhere out of this world: He would want to orbit Earth from space and enjoy its beauty from the perspective of the entire universe.

But for now, Dr. Patel is content to travel between Dallas, Texas, and Columbus, Nebraska, treating patients who suffer from heart and vascular conditions. He is an interventional cardiologist who works at Columbus Community Hospital's new cardiac catheterization lab and Columbus Cardiology Clinic.

"I thoroughly enjoy working in my specialty because it allows me to help my patients with acute or chronic heart or vascular conditions, with performance of procedures in a non-surgical fashion that have dramatic life-saving and symptom improvement benefits," he said.

On the other hand, he said, the most challenging part of his job is making sure patients are able to access care, regardless of their ability to pay. **"It is quite frustrating to see that a significant portion of our patients are not able to afford ideal medical treatments,"** he said.

Back in Texas, Dr. Patel and his wife, Dina, have two adult sons – the oldest is a medical student and the youngest works in business. When Dr. Patel isn't working, he enjoys playing pickleball and golf and traveling to various parts of the world.

He especially likes reading the works of William Shakespeare, Rabindranath Tagore and Ernest Hemingway. And while he appreciates listening to many different genres of music, he says if he were stuck on a desert island, his top choice of music would be Bob Marley and the Wailers.

Nikunj Kumar Patel, MD

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGIST
COLUMBUS CARDIOLOGY CLINIC

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