

JANNA R. GEWIRTZ O'BRIEN, MD, MPH

- Assistant professor, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota; adolescent medicine physician, Adolescent and Young Adult Health, Department of Pediatrics, Hennepin Healthcare.
- MMA member since 2013.
- From Dix Hills, NY. University of Rochester in New York for undergraduate and medical school. Residency in pediatrics at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. MPH at University of Minnesota Executive Program in Public Health, Administration and Policy. Fellowship in adolescent medicine, Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Interdisciplinary Fellowship, University of Minnesota.
- Lives in Southwest Minneapolis. Married to a fellow physician, raising a "spirited" 5-1/2-year-old daughter and a wild 8-month-old puppy.

Became a physician because ...

What drove me into healthcare was a passion for addressing the social drivers of health inside and outside the clinical setting, through advocacy and community-based work. Now, my clinical work, research and advocacy are deeply interconnected and focus on how primary care and community-based health services can most effectively and equitably serve youth from historically marginalized communities, particularly youth experiencing homelessness. As an adolescent medicine physician at Hennepin Healthcare, an assistant professor at the University leading community-based research and a shelter-based healthcare provider at The Bridge for Youth, I truly feel I am living my dream job.



Greatest challenge facing medicine today ...

The immense pressure physicians face to accomplish an increasing amount in shorter periods of time. So much of my work relies on interpersonal connections and long-term relationships with patients

that take time and patience to forge. Pressures related to time, documentation and getting through our own agendas as healthcare providers for every visit have the potential to perpetuate harm, inequities and oppression at the hands of the healthcare system.

Favorite fictional physician ...

Dr. Elliott Reid from *Scrubs*. Not only is she fantastic and wicked smart, she normalizes the insecurities that come with a career in medicine, from training through transition to faculty.

If I weren't a physician ...

I would be a high school teacher. The thing I love most about being an adolescent medicine physician is working with young people. I learn from them every day and am continually inspired by their intelligence, humor and remarkable resilience. Adolescents are at a critical moment of development and I love being a part of their journeys. work in school-based healthcare, I have seen the pivotal role that high school teachers play in young people's lives.

PETER ARGENTA, MD

- Associate professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, University of Minnesota; and gynecologic oncologist with M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Hospital and Masonic Cancer Center.
- MMA member since 2002.
- Grew up in Ann Arbor and Detroit, MI; attended the University of Michigan. Medical school at Duke University, research fellowship in fetal wound healing at UCSF, residency in obstetrics and gynecology at University of Pennsylvania and fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Six-month sabbatical with Plastic Surgery Unit at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Married to wife Oufreez for 26 years. Daughter Maya is a junior engineer at the University of Iowa (they are a Big Ten family) and son Dominic is a high school junior with aspirations toward medicine



Greatest challenge facing medicine today ...

The greatest challenge facing medicine today is distraction. There are so many nonsense distractions, things that help not the patient, physician, hospital or insurance companies, but siphon time and energy from the important missions. Strangely, many of the measures meant to alleviate this obstruction have made it worse. No doc will tell you they are their happiest when typing.

Favorite fictional physician ...

No question, that would be Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce from *MASH*. He is equal parts competence, resilience and humanity, with a dash of Groucho Marx. His moral compass is sound (mostly), and gives him clarity of mission in chaos. Humor is an essential part of my dealing with the complexity and common sadness of cancer care. Cancer is a reminder we are not permanent, but humor is a reminder that we're still in the game.

If I weren't a physician ...

If I weren't a physician, I am truly not sure what I would do. I have no artistic ability of any sort, which is doubly sad because I have a great appreciation for art and music; I am fascinated by business, but would be a terrible salesman; and I am far too old, too slow and too small to play hockey for the Red Wings (my childhood aspiration).

Became a physician because ...

My father is a surgeon and my mother was a social worker who also was a wartime nurse, so in part it is a family tradition. I also love problem-solving, which in oncology we have in spades. But I think the driver for me has always been that there is room to make a historic impact, a change in the field that keeps on working for people even after you are gone. I haven't done that yet, so it's back to work for me.