

Getting to Know...

Sujani Poonuru, M.D.

Dr. Sujani Poonuru attended medical school at Gandhi Medical College in Hyderabad, India. She completed her residency training at Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin and her fellowship training at Medical College of Wisconsin, with specialty in endocrinology. Dr. Poonuru is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. She joined Boice-Willis Clinic in 2016.

Q *At what point in your life did you realize you wanted to enter the medical field?*

A It was when I was in high school. I was very much interested in science, and I really wanted to learn about the human body. Also I was very interested to know how medicines work on the cellular level.

Q *Where did you work before coming to Boice-Willis Clinic?*

A I worked for a private practice in Twin cities, Minnesota. We were a group of eight endocrinologists.

Q *What led you to BWC?*

A I wanted to stay closer to my family in Cary, North Carolina. Also, I really enjoy living in a small town.

Q *Why did you choose to pursue the field of endocrinology?*

A Well, the big thing in endocrinology is diabetes, which is very common, and the number of ways you manage diabetes is equal to the number of physicians who treat the disorder. Diabetes is unique to the individual patient, so determining the patient's needs and personalizing the treatment is challenging and rewarding at the same time. I also like treating the other endocrine disorders, which can affect all the organ systems, from head to toe.





Q *What do you find most rewarding about your work?*

A Most rewarding to me is developing long-term patient relationships, and it brings me great joy to see any little difference that I can bring to a patient's life. I find it both challenging and inspiring to work with my patients on a daily basis.

Q *What would you say is most misunderstood by the public about endocrinology?*

A Well, in general, people don't know what the term endocrinology entails. Most of them may have heard of diabetes or thyroid or hormones, but they are not aware that we have a word for doctors who deal with endocrine glands and hormones. That is what is meant by the term "endocrinologist."

Q *What changes have you seen in the medical field since you began your career?*

A One change is with electronic health records, which allows physicians to have online communication with regard to diagnostic results and promising treatments for many chronic conditions.

Q *What change would you most like to see within the next 10 years?*

A I would like to see an integration of the whole electronic health records system without the need to obtain records from the outside. For example, if we need medical records for a patient, the current process is to call for records or fax records—things like that. But if we were to integrate all the electronic medical record systems, just with a click of a mouse we could see all of a patient's records, no matter where and when they were previously seen. Some of the electronic medical record systems, such as Epic Systems, are like that. Also VA EMR is a good system. With it, we can see a patient's records no matter where he or she was throughout the entire country.

Q *What do you do to relax when you're not at work?*

A I enjoy spending quality time with my family. It's challenging to juggle my attention between the needs of my eight year old (a boy) and two year old (a girl). But it's fun to watch them grow. ■

Dr. Poonuru will be seeing patients at Boice-Willis Family Medicine Clinic in Wilson on Fridays. For referrals to Dr. Poonuru, please call 252-265-0650. Fax: 252-937-3120



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