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Ob Hospitalist Group clinician testimonial



Beyond the conventional path

Dr. Robin Whatley is an Ob Hospitalist Group (OBHG) Market Medical Director and Site Director at University Chicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook Hospital

who found her true north at the intersection of OB hospitalist medicine and personal wellbeing.



“Becoming an OB hospitalist, especially at OBHG, has truly transformed my career journey.”

– Dr. Robin Whatley, OB hospitalist



Destination medicine

Dr. Whatley’s passion for medicine was cemented at a young age. When she was diagnosed with a rare, non-cancerous tumor as a pre-teen, she underwent surgery and an extended hospital stay, keeping her away from school. Dr. Clark, her pediatrician, provided exceptional care for both her physical and emotional well-being during this time.

Growing up in Columbus, Ohio, where few African American doctors practiced, Dr. Clark was the only African American pediatrician. His pediatric care was highly regarded within Dr. Whatley’s African American community. “He was so entertaining, and he had such a great bedside manner,” she explains. “I thought, I’m going to be like Dr. Clark and make kids feel better.”

Aiming to follow Dr. Clark’s footsteps in pediatrics, Dr. Whatley embarked on her medical journey at Ohio University attaining a Bachelor of Science in pre-med, before earning her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

During her residency, however, she discovered her joy for obstetrics. “You start with mom and the dad or support person, you do the work, and then all of the sudden there’s another human in the room,” she says.

Plans pivot

Dr. Whatley flourished in private practice as a generalist OB/GYN. Yet, she’d found herself caught up in the daily routine—rushing to the office in the morning, tending to patients, completing notes, responding to messages, making callbacks, and reviewing labs.

The challenge for her wasn’t the medical side of her practice, but rather the monotony of computer tasks like charting, documentation, and billing. Her laptop became a constant companion at family dinners and basketball games. At one point one of her kids called her out and said, “Mommy, you’re working again!”

Dr. Whatley, who was aware of OB hospitalist medicine, acknowledges that the idea of transitioning intrigued her, but she hesitated to make a move. “I really liked my practice – the deep connections with patients I’d nurtured over the years by delivering babies, caring for mothers, sisters, and entire families.”

It wasn’t until Dr. Whatley’s father became ill that she began to seriously consider a transition. “When my father passed away, I realized how short life is. I was dedicating myself to my practice to support my family, but time was slipping away, and my children were quickly growing up.”



Clearing the way

Making a meaningful impact in the care of women while having the flexibility to create her own schedule without the burden of on-call duty or office management is what Dr. Whatley found at OBHG. What's more, she could continue to grow her career with work-life balance in mind.

What surprised her most? Elimination of a structured schedule. "In private practice, time is limited as you juggle patient appointments. We often have only 10 to 15 minutes with each patient before moving on to the next," she explains. "The OB hospitalist role enables me to spend time at a patient's bedside or with my team coaching them through a procedure - provided it's not overly hectic. I can fully engage in the moment, offering more of myself."

Achieving balance

Creating her own work schedule - typically five to seven 24-hour shifts per month - has allowed Dr. Whatley to create space for her personal interests. She's traveled extensively with her husband, son, daughter and extended family and friends. As an avid reader, she has also joined a monthly book club with moms from her kids' school.

In addition to dedicating time to connect with her favorite people, she has also carved out a space for relaxation and renewal in her own "she-shed." This open-air, gazebo-style structure is complete with comfortable chairs to enjoy a morning cup of coffee and a fire pit to relax by in the evening.

Looking back on her decision to join OBHG, she expresses no regrets saying, "becoming an OB hospitalist, especially at OBHG, has truly transformed my career journey."



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