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Ob Hospitalist Group clinician testimonial



Dr. Peter Earl, OBHG Hospitalist

'It's a Wonderful Fit'

By Kristine Hartvigsen

Some people collect stamps. Others may collect salt-and-pepper shakers or even polka records. And then there are those who collect old pagers.

"My wife has a box full of old pagers and flip phones that she has collected over the years," said Dr. Peter Earl, an OB/GYN hospitalist at Memorial Regional Medical Center and at St. Francis Medical Center, in Mechanicsville and Midlothian, VA, respectively. "When I retire, there's going to be a bonfire."

Dr. Earl is happy to leave those annoying devices behind as he enjoys life now as an Ob Hospitalist Group (OBHG) physician. "I like the time off very much. And I like the providers I work with," he said. "They treat us well, as colleagues. I very much like that. ... Even in a 'demanding' month, I might work 10 days instead of seven. But that's still only 10 days of work out of the month! It's something I wish I had done quite a few years before I did it."

The family – wife Linda Lee and daughter Madeline – also appreciates the OBHG lifestyle. An accomplished fiber artist and orchidist, Mrs. Earl has nearly 200 orchids growing in her greenhouse. The couple purchased a home in sleepy Gloucester, VA, with plenty of acreage for the family's multiple dogs, cats, chickens, and the goats that will be added to the menagerie so Mrs. Earl once again can make her tasty goat cheese.

The Earls met when Dr. Earl started his first job out of residency. "We both worked in a medical office in Boulder, CO. She was hired as our receptionist," he explained. "After a year, I left to start my own practice, and she came with me as my office manager."

Though he was born in Detroit, MI, Dr. Earl spent most of his formative years in Colorado and always will consider the Centennial State his family's home. It's where he attended college and medical school. In addition, he and his wife were married at the family ranch in picturesque Durango, CO. His father still lives there.

World Traveling and Ice Skating

Madeline, 21, attends Emory and Henry College in southwestern Virginia and recently completed a semester abroad. To start their recent 25th wedding anniversary trip, the Earls arrived in Ireland as Madeline completed her overseas study at Dublin City University.

"We traveled around Ireland for a week. I had never been to Ireland before," Dr. Earl said. "We had a wonderful time. However, I did not enjoy driving on the left side of the road at high speeds on narrow unmarked roads! It was quite an adventure and not for the faint of heart!"

Because Madeline already had been in Ireland for several months, she knew about some great places to visit that were off the beaten path. After Ireland, the family spent a week in Germany's Black Forest region. "When I was in high school, I spent two summers living with German families there," Dr. Earl said. "The homes where I stayed were actually still there! I was amazed."

They also spent several days in the tiny skiing village of St. Blasien. As a child, Dr. Earl enjoyed skiing, but his true winter passion is on the ice rink.

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Dr. Peter Earl, his wife Linda Lee and daughter Madeline

"My sport is ice hockey. I started playing when I was 5," he said. "I still play on two teams. I played all the way through college and play now in an adult league. That is my fun. That is my exercise."

Every year, the Earls travel to ice hockey tournaments around the country. "We went to Las Vegas last year and to Nashville the year before that," he said. They lived in Kingsport, TN, before moving to Virginia and remain huge fans of the Nashville Predators, who finished 2nd in the 2017 Stanley Cup final.



Time to Show Off the 'Vette

Another perk of Dr. Earl's hospitalist lifestyle is time to travel in his bright red Corvette to collectors' events and the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. His grandfather was Harley Earl, the original designer known as the "Father of the Corvette." In fact, Dr. Earl was honored a few years back to be invited to speak at the museum's 20th anniversary celebration.

"It's my family's only claim to fame," he quipped.

Dr. Earl is mindful every day of his blessings and is thankful for the flexibility he has working with OBHG.

"When I was in solo practice, or even group practice, the call schedule was daunting," he said. "It's so nice not to have to worry about that. It's nice not having to worry about all the office things that I used to have to worry about, to have a defined set of responsibilities. I get to work and do my job, and then I get to come home. ... It's a wonderful fit for me."

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