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Doctors now work along side their childhood pediatrician

By Judy Cohen Minches



Dr. Christina Lampone and Dr. Eric Dorn; both were patients of Dr. Edward Rosof as children. Today, they both work at his Marlton practice.

EVESHAM-Eric Dorn and Christina Lampone vividly recall office visits with their pediatrician, Edward Rosof, as far back as 25 years or more. Rosof, a sole practitioner at the time, enjoyed watching his young patients grow and, at times, he was privy to their dreams. The two - Medford-born Dorn and Lampone (nee Litrenta), from Washington Township - told Rosof that they would like to help people and become doctors, too. He encouraged the youngsters to work hard in school and do their best so they could achieve their goals. He even invited them to join his practice one day in the future. Years later, Advocare Marlton Pediatrics - part of the Advocare network, formerly known as Children's Health Associates - is comprised of 12 doctors, including Rosof and his two grown patients from years past, Lampone and Dorn. Veteran doctors Howard Orel, Jeffrey Blackman, Howard Waxman, Heidi Fleishman, Lisa Kao, Velmina Rivera, Stacey Hammer, Anne Gordon and nurse practitioner Diane DiFazio complete the team.

Dorn, who attended Taunton Forge Elementary School, Memorial Middle School and Shawnee High School, said several of his teachers fed his fascination with science and the human body. "I remember Mr. Siedlecki from Memorial School; he had a career fair with 30 to 40 people in the lab...and, at Shawnee, I remember Mr. Long in biology, and Mr. Williams and Mr. Steinmetz in chemistry." While Dorn went off to college at the University of Delaware - with a strong interest in practicing medicine - his decision to enter the pediatric field came after two years of experiencing a variety of rotations in medical school at Thomas Jefferson University and was further solidified after his

residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. "I could see myself doing a lot of things, but when I did pediatrics, I had a feeling I didn't want to leave," said Dorn, who remembers crying as a little boy when Rosof looked in his ears. "I felt I could do it for a lifetime."

Lampone, who graduated from Rosemont College, Hahnemann Medical School and completed her residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, said her heart was in pediatrics from the start and, to this day, "can't see doing anything else." As a child, she looked forward to her yearly "well checks" with Rosof, the instruments in the office and when he would sit down and talk with her mother. "I wanted to talk to moms like Dr. Rosof did with my mom," said Lampone. "I remember coming home from my check-ups and telling my dad all about my visits. What I wanted was to help moms and dads take care of their children." Establishing relationships with families is a vital component of the philosophy at Advocare Marlton Pediatrics and one of the aspects Lampone enjoys most as a pediatrician. "I love when they (the families) come in for check-ups. I know many families well. I like to take care of them, know the issues they have. Some I've been seeing for the eight years I've been at Marlton Pediatrics; from when the kids were in grade school, middle school and then high school. It's cool to watch them grow up, to watch the birth of siblings. "We, like they, are wives and mothers - (or husbands and dads) - and we understand how they feel. We share the same hopes and fears for our children," said Lampone, the mother of two toddler boys. "Raising children is a joint effort. We're all working together to take care of their kids. "Children have complex and busy lives, growing up faster these days with more peer pressure than I experienced," said Lampone. "They have questions and the parents have questions too....Caring for them is about more than their health; it's about their well being."

Dorn, who joined Advocare Marlton Pediatrics last year, noted that "great new vaccines have resulted in less serious diseases we're seeing and treating, but young people have complicated situations that need managing, such as school problems, anxiety and social concerns," thereby expanding the role of the pediatrician. Dorn said communicating with families will continue to be enhanced by evolving technological advances, once confidentiality and safety measures have been implemented. The use of electronic medical records, which allows doctors to access information simultaneously - even on e-mail and mobile devices - will enable parents to more rapidly and easily communicate their concerns, said Dorn. Parents could send links to pictures and videos to describe rashes and seizures and, when possible and depending upon the nature of the situation, the doctors could electronically instruct the parents as to the best course of action, he said. "Ultimately my goal for the future is more accessibility to us. 'Send me a link,' I will say, and they can use their phone to send me a picture. I will be able to send them a link to related information; they can ask a question about a vaccine...communication options are continually improving." Dorn said the large staff at Advocare Marlton Pediatrics works to the advantage of patients and their families who are looking for peak accessibility to medical care.

Dorn, an avid runner with a strong interest in meteorology (including preparing his own forecast for his friends when a storm is approaching), and Lampone, whose favorite pastime is spending time at the shore with her family, share the passion of their mentor, Edward Rosof. "I love helping children grow into responsible individuals," said Rosof, who also recalls the office visits with his former patients, Dorn and Litrenta. "I remember

Mrs. Litrenta telling me that 'Chris wants to be just like you, Dr. Rosof, a pediatrician.'" "Although we're colleagues now, Chris still calls me Dr. Rosof and Eric calls me Dr. Eddie," Rosof said with a smile, "even though I've told them to call me Ed," said the proud new grandfather of a baby girl with twin grandsons on the way. "Families always ask me, 'Has pediatrics changed?' and my answer is, 'In some ways, yes...There are a few new medications, diagnoses'...but I treat families the same as I did since 1975 and, for me, that will never change."

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