



## **Keith Lehman, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.**

### **1. Where did you go to medical school? Where was your residency?**

I went to The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio, from 1976-79, for medical school. I completed my residency at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, from 1979-82.

### **2. Please describe your current (and past) practice setting/patient population - (i.e. rural, urban office setting; geriatrics, sports medicine, academic medicine, etc.)**

I have been in private practice for 26 years in Archbold, Ohio, a town of 4,500 in Northwest Ohio. We have a group of five family physicians. In the past three years we joined a larger group in the two-county area that has 45 physicians. I have a practice that includes obstetrics, newborns, pediatrics and adults. I see patients in the nursing home, and I am the medical director for the local Hospice. I am the president of the board of the county health department. I attend to patients at the two small hospitals in our county.

### **3. Why did you choose family medicine? Was there a particular event/person that helped you decide to enter family medicine?**

My physician as a child was a family physician and my idea of what a physician was. I also worked as an orderly in a small hospital as a college student and observed how family physicians treated patients. When I entered medical school I enjoyed all my rotations and I saw family medicine as a way to continue to practice those disciplines. I wanted to treat the whole person. I, also, had teachers, residents and other students that encouraged me to continue in family medicine.

### **4. While working, what is the best part of your day? Why?**

I enjoy the interaction with the patients and the variety of problems that present themselves. An elderly patient I have seen for 20 years, then a new mom with her newborn and then a patient with a sports injury.

### **5. What is the most difficult part of your day? Why? How do you deal with it?**

The paper work is the most difficult part of my day. It takes time and gets in the way of taking care of patients.

**6. What do you think is the most important personality trait that a family physician can possess? Why?**

I believe that a family physician should have a compassionate and caring personality.

**7. What do you think patients value the most in their physician? Why?**

From my experience, I believe that patients value a doctor who listens to them and values them as a person. They, also, expect their physician to be knowledgeable.

**8. What have you learned from your patients?**

I have learned to try and meet them where they are at in their ability to change, and to comply and realize that one treatment does not fit all.

**9. What can medical students do right now (other than study) to make themselves become more ready to become family physicians in the future?**

Medical students should be well rounded in the rotations they take and learn the "big picture" of what that sub-specialty has to offer patients. It is important to learn to enjoy patients for who they are as people.

**10. What other advice do you have for students who are interested in family medicine? And, for those who are not sure yet?**

I would advise to take a first-year summer proctorship with a physician in a practice setting you could see yourself practicing some day. Take your family medicine rotation away from the university and experience a different practice style.