

Life vs.



RESIDENTS AT SOUTH POINTE AND SEATTLE GRACE MAY NOT BE WORLDS APART, BUT THERE IS SOME DISTANCE

By Meta McMillian

Within a month of his internship, he already had the woman of his dreams in sight.

"I would find creative ways to see the patients she was seeing," he recalls. "I would ask others to let me know if she had certain patients, and make a point to see them, too. Then somebody sold me out."



As it turns out, the attraction was mutual, and the relationship moved along at near episodic speed. A subplot for an episode of *Grey's Anatomy*? No. A real-life episode in the life of Jake Yannetta, D.O., surgery resident at South Pointe Hospital, and his wife of nearly four years, Michelle, a registered nurse now at Cleveland Clinic.

Romantic relationships occasionally develop between members of a hospital's medical staff, but they are a backdrop to the challenges interns and residents say they face daily, during 12-hour shifts, treating patients and saving lives. "Some things they do on the show are similar to what we do," says Jamie Moenster, D.O.,

Jake Yannetta, D.O., and his wife, Michelle, a registered nurse at Cleveland Clinic, met at South Pointe Hospital.



surgery resident, South Pointe Hospital. "There are a lot of realistic situations that involve different patients and life-and-death issues."

"But what happens here is not overly dramatic," Dr. Yannetta adds. "We are in a more controlled setting. You're part of a team. Everybody knows their jobs. There is not too much room for high drama and the yelling that you see on the medical show."

That's because, as residents, they must remain focused on the rigorous training in general surgical techniques and patient care

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minutes to fill out the form and put the sticker on your license. I think it's the most obvious choice in the world."

25 Million Viewers Can't Be Wrong

The writers of *Grey's Anatomy* clearly have the cure for what ails TV viewers, but if you visit the hospital soon, don't expect to see an

intern performing open-heart surgery in an elevator—or physicians and nurses who are more interested in their love lives than your IV line. "Doctors and nurses take their jobs very seriously," Wehby says. "Their first concern is the patient."

Though the show likely goes overboard, it does remind us that doctors are also spouses, friends

and parents with lives outside hospital walls. "Patients should remember that doctors are regular people, and they face regular-people constraints," Dorward says. "However, each patient deserves compassionate and effective care, and if your doctor seems to fall short in that regard, then something is amiss and needs to be changed." ■



Our own McDreamys? Drs. Jake Yannetta and Jamie Moenster have taken care of many patients as they train to be surgeons at South Pointe Hospital.

for personal dramas or other indulgences, say Drs. Yannetta and Moenster. Both are fans of the show, but point out some unlikely scenarios, like the few patients the show's residents seem to see daily versus the 15 to 20 patients they may actually see in real life.

The show once indicated residents can work up to 48 hours straight, when the actual number is 30. That was later corrected. But Drs. Yannetta and Moenster say they can identify with feelings of uncertainty the TV show residents exhibit at times, and their strong desire to successfully treat patients.

they are providing in the five-year graduate general surgery residency program at South Pointe Hospital. Interns and residents learn about patient care from veteran physicians in classroom settings by observing physicians with patients and finally by putting their own knowledge and skills to use.

What Really Happens

"We develop rotating schedules for the interns and residents, so they can gain experience from physicians at different hospitals," says Nealie Houk, administrative director for graduate medical education at South Pointe. Osteopathic medicine is a holistic approach to medical care. Some go on to choose specialties.

The surgery residency program currently has two interns and five residents. Their hands-on training involves ensuring that patients' vital signs and bodily functions are stable, performing planned surgeries, and working with trauma, emergency and intensive care patients.

The schedule and commitment needed do not leave much time

Interns and residents can be competitive, but not as biting as depicted on the show, observes Dr. Yannetta, who earned his medical degree at the University of North Texas, Fort Worth. The competition has more to do with the residents' eagerness to assume more responsibilities, he says.

Newer residents generally are performing duties like following up on lab work and X-rays, ensuring patients perform normal bodily functions, and later performing less difficult, more routine surgeries. More complicated surgeries are performed by the more seasoned, senior residents.

Concern for the patients does not end when the residents are off-duty. "I didn't expect to be wondering what was going on at the hospital after I got home," explains Dr. Moenster, who earned her medical degree at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri. "But you find yourself wanting to know if the patients you were seeing are OK. I thought I would be able to leave it all at the office. But that is not the case." ■

South Pointe Hospital: Celebrating 50 years of Training Physicians

South Pointe Hospital sponsors the third-largest osteopathic medical education program in Ohio and is affiliated with the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. More than 100 medical students from around the country complete their clerkship rotations at the hospital annually.

Upon graduation from medical school, these physicians continue their training in hospital-based graduate medical education programs. Residents advance their skills through lectures, rounding on patients and participation in procedures, including surgeries. Faculty stay current on medical advances to provide patients with the best-quality care and residents and medical students with ideal learning experiences.

South Pointe's resident physicians benefit from the high-tech skills lab in the education center. Simulated patient encounters and procedure mannequins provide for optimum training.

South Pointe employs approximately 60 resident physicians in seven residency programs and three fellowships, and will celebrate its 50th entering class in July. These programs include:

- ◆ family medicine
- ◆ internal medicine
- ◆ anesthesia
- ◆ emergency medicine
- ◆ general surgery
- ◆ orthopedic surgery
- ◆ internal medicine/emergency medicine
- ◆ sports medicine
- ◆ plastic surgery
- ◆ vascular surgery

To learn more about South Pointe Hospital's program, visit www.southpointehospital.org.



Jamie Moenster, D.O., second-year surgery resident at South Pointe Hospital