Dr. Robert Pennington Takes Pride in Serving His Hometown Community

Robert Pennington, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with dual certification in sports medicine and general orthopedics from the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons. He is one of only 13 board certified in orthopedic sports medicine in the entire state and the only one in southern West Virginia. He has maintained a broad general orthopedic practice treating patients of all ages with upper extremity and sports medicine as subspecialties. He performs advanced outpatient minimally invasive arthroscopic procedures in the shoulder, elbow, wrist, knee, and ankle. In addition, Dr. Pennington provides emergency orthopedic call coverage. He also performs a broad range of orthopedic reconstructive surgery including shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, knee and ankle procedures as well as total joint replacement.

After graduating from Princeton High School, Dr. Pennington attended Bluefield State College, Concord University, then transferred to South Carolina where he earned a bachelor degree in pre-med. He returned to West Virginia and graduated from Marshall University School of Medicine.

He completed two years of general surgery residency at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, South Carolina, and then concentrated on orthopedic surgery for an (continued next page)
Princeton Community Hospital now offers secure access to patient medical information through our Patient Portal as a service to patients who wish to view parts of their medical records.

West Virginia Code for releasing patient information and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations will be maintained throughout the Portal Access procedures. Patients or their legal guardians can enroll in the Patient Portal if they agree to follow the terms and conditions spelled out on the enrollment form and if they have a valid e-mail address.

Additional information on our Patient Portal is available on our website along with a helpful self-enrollment video. Please visit www.pchonline.org.

Dr. Pennington said, “Treating injuries in all age groups is one of the draws of orthopedics for me. I rotated through all of the specialties in medical school exploring various avenues in which to devote my professional career. By my fourth year, I was leaning toward cardiology. On every level from physical to spiritual, I found the treatment of the heart appealing. However, I ultimately settled on orthopedics as the field I found most fulfilling. Orthopedics is not gender specific, there is a wide range of injuries that may be treated and repaired successfully, and I can see results almost immediately and know that I’ve made a difference in the lives of my patients.”

Even during the years in North Carolina, Dr. Pennington considered West Virginia his home base. He has many family members in the area including his parents, Sandy and Jolene Pennington and his sister Dr. Pamela Faulkner. As a boy growing up in the area, Dr. Pennington fondly recalls the many summers he spent on the farm of his grandparents Robert and Ozell Pennington in Speedway. The cemetery in Speedway is the final resting place of family members going back at least seven generations. He was drawn back home because of those family roots and relationships. During his childhood, Dr. Pennington attended Johnston Chapel Baptist Church in Princeton. He said, “It is touching when my Sunday School teachers, other teachers, and people I grew up with in the community now come to me as a doctor. I have a very high regard for these people, many of whom contributed significantly to my success as an adult. Providing care for them now is a great honor.”

Dr. Pennington said, “Here at PCH, we can perform state-of-the-art arthroscopic surgery on your shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, knee, or ankle using minimal incisions so patients have reduced pain and earlier recovery with outpatient efficiency and convenience. At PCH, we use world-class techniques and arthroscopic technology for shoulder surgery. Most all arthroscopic reconstructive shoulder procedures available are now performed at PCH. That includes rotator cuff tendon repair, ligament repair, biceps tendon repair, removal of spurs, and stabilization for dislocations.”
Board Certified in Family Medicine, Jessica Aliff, D.O., joined Mercer Medical Group in early August. Dr. Aliff is the daughter of Christy and Rick Puckett.

She grew up in Princeton, attended Princeton High School, studied pre-med/biology at Concord University, and earned her medical degree at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg. She completed her residency training in Lewisburg at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center.

Dr. Aliff has a life-long history with Princeton Community Hospital. She was born at PCH, her parents are both RNs and longtime employees of PCH, and she began volunteering at the hospital in middle school and continued every summer during her high school years.

Dr. Aliff said, “This is home. Besides working as a PCH volunteer since my teenage years, I have helped with the annual Women’s Health Screening since its inception. This year I hope to work as a volunteer physician during the screening. I also hope to become more involved with student health issues at Concord University. I helped with sports physicals at Concord earlier this month and I want to do more to reach out to adolescents and young adults in the community.”

Dr. Aliff and her husband Trey have an 11-week-old baby daughter, Jenna. Mr. Aliff oversees Raleigh, Summers, Fayette, Pocahontas, and Greenbrier Counties as a senior district executive for the Boy Scouts of America. The couple enjoy travel, sports, other outdoor activities, spending time with friends and family, and attending Marshall University football games. Dr. Aliff is a runner who participates in 5K races and other runs in the area.
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- Sprains
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