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Physician Profile: Tim Johnston, MD

This profile appeared originally in [ARRMC Medical Staff News](#)

From Lockheed Martin, to family doctor, to hospitalist in Ashland and Medford, Dr. Tim Johnston has now taken on another role as Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center's new chief of medicine.



Distinction: Chief of medicine, Asante Rogue Regional

Current practice: Hospitalist, Asante Rogue Regional

Medical education: Medical degree, University of Colorado School of Medicine; family medicine residency, St. Mary's Hospital Regional Medical Center, Colorado

Past lives: Aerospace engineer; family medicine physician with Southern Oregon Family Practice; hospitalist with Asante Ashland Community Hospital; night shifts at a paper plant in Portland

First off, you were an aerospace engineer with Lockheed Martin?

I worked on GPS satellites for the Department of Defense.

What made you switch to medicine?

I had a family member critically injured in the middle of nowhere. I had planned on practicing rural, do-everything family-practice medicine. That changed to a traditional family practice when I realized that the kind of rural medicine I'd envisioned is uncommon and, as medicine advances, less desirable.

You briefly studied wilderness medicine. What did you learn?

My wife and I really like backpacking and lots of outdoor activities, so I've always been interested in that. It's kind of like ER medicine without the fancy stuff they have in the ER. A lot of it is knowing the right things to do and improvising – creating an emergency kit, making a backboard out of a sleeping bag.

What did you enjoy about family practice?

The relationships that you develop in a long-term practice are probably the most fun. My family practice group used to do hospital medicine as well, but gave it up.

So you decided to become a hospitalist?

It was a good choice. It's very busy and challenging every day.

What books influenced you?

“How We Die,” by Sherwin Nuland and “A People’s History of the United States,” by Howard Zinn.

What would we be surprised to learn about you?

Maybe that I like kiteboarding? I tried to do it in Emigrant Lake, which was not entirely successful.

What do you hope to accomplish in your new role as chief of medicine?

Right now my priorities are trying to make our hospital safer, given the extraordinary demands on our volume. We’ve got a lot of challenges ahead in that regard. I hope to help Asante meet the needs of our community as best we can.

Asante News is published every Tuesday. Deadline for submission of articles is every Friday. Send via e-mail to asantenews@asante.org.
Question or suggestions: Call Communications and Marketing at (541) 789-3510 or extension 13510.