

MEET SPORTS MEDICINE SPECIALIST DR. DARIUS GREENBACHER

Why did you choose a career in medicine in general, and sports medicine in particular?

I have always been interested in medicine but decided to pursue it as a career while living in Sierra Leone, West Africa. I saw that even basic medical care would have improved the people's lives. I decided that I wanted to have a skill with which I could fully contribute to my community. I became an emergency medicine doctor, and started thinking about sports medicine when my wife said in passing, "Wouldn't it be great if there was a way to combine your two passions: medicine and athletics?" It just clicked at that moment.

What do you like best about caring for patients and what is your patient care philosophy?

It is an honor to be a doctor. I am allowed into people's lives in such a personal way. As an emergency medicine doctor, I was allowed to be part of pivotal and often hard experiences in my patients' lives. As a sports medicine specialist, I get to help people do what they love. I get to see their passion and dedication. Seeing the smile on someone's face who is able to get back to their sport after an injury is a gift. I work to help my patients heal themselves. It is important to understand what they need and expect. I give them a lot of responsibility in their healing process.

What is attractive to you about being a part of the Baystate Franklin Medical Center community?

BFMC is a growing, dynamic, supportive medical center. There have been so many positive changes in the last 10 years. BFMC is a commitment to the community. The administration is responsive to the staff and are working to make BFMC the best community medical center in the region.

What do you do for fun?

I have traveled extensively, living in Kenya and Sierra Leone and spending time in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Spain, Ireland, Mexico, and Puerto Rico among others. I want to give my daughters my passion for travel and adventuring.

I am passionate about music and play (or at least work at) multiple instruments: guitar, Irish accordion, and dobro. Before starting in medicine I was a timber frame carpenter and still love building and woodworking.

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Dr. Darius Greenbacher

Sports are also an integral part of my life. I have bicycle raced for the past 10 years. I play hockey regularly, participate in triathlons, marathons, jujitsu, rock climbing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Sports medicine is just an extension of this. I have been hurt so many times I feel I can empathize with more patients who come to see me.

Where do you and your family live?

I am originally from Minneapolis, but I have lived in Northampton for the past 10 years. My wife Alisa and I are proud parents of Bella, age 8, and Annika, age 3. We also have a golden retriever puppy named Buddy.

How do you define success as a sports medicine specialist?

I feel successful when my patients feel like they are talking to a friend; when they feel they have been heard and understood. I feel successful when I can start my patients on the path of healing and when I am able to help them realize their goals.

Dr. Greenbacher is currently accepting new patients at BMP - Valley Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 413-773-2220. For a complete list of orthopedic surgeons on staff at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Baystate Mary Lane Hospital, or Baystate Medical Center, call 1-800-377-4325.



WATCH THIS!

Dr. Greenbacher discusses his patient care philosophy at baystatehealth.org/bfmcports.