

MEET PLASTIC SURGEON Dr. Pranay Parikh

By Jill Messier



MY PHILOSOPHY OF PATIENT CARE IS CENTERED ON BEING A GOOD LISTENER.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND THIS PARTICULAR SPECIALTY?

I chose to be in medicine because I am, at heart, a people person and a problem solver. The opportunity to synthesize both of these things into one profession made medicine a natural pathway for me.

I came to the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery and surgery of the hand almost by accident. I entered medical school considering a career in pediatrics. While rotating as a surgical clerk, I found several role models who were “kindred spirits” and embodied the ideal physician as I saw it: a caring, astute clinician who was a thoughtful problem solver, and master craftsman. As many of these role models were the plastic surgeons and hand surgeons, I decided to

investigate these fields further and it set me on the journey that has brought me to where I am today.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT CARING FOR PATIENTS AND WHAT IS YOUR PATIENT CARE PHILOSOPHY?

My favorite part of caring for patients is seeing them return to their lives after working with them to successfully overcome a surgical problem.

I recently cared for a patient who had a tragic saw accident to his wrist. Working with him over several months to repair his injury and rehabilitate his function, and ultimately seeing him return to the ski slopes in time for all of the recent snowfall was a true pleasure.

My philosophy of patient care is centered on being a good listener. Once I hear what is most important to patients, I try to tailor the solution to best meet their needs.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU ABOUT BEING A PART OF BAYSTATE HEALTH?

I see patients both at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield and at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware. Being a part of Baystate Health as a whole allows me to offer a broad spectrum of services to the patients of our region. At both hospitals, I can bring a high level of surgical services to patients in their own community so they can avoid traveling far for care and follow-up. For complicated or unusual situations, having the full resources of Baystate Health available allows me to address even the most sophisticated problems.

WHERE DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY LIVE? ANY HOBBIES?

My wife Elizabeth and I live in South Hadley with our two-year-old daughter Zivia. I am an avid outdoors enthusiast and enjoy rock-climbing, mountain biking, and backpacking. I also have a love for the fine arts and love to paint, draw, and illustrate. Of late, sharing these interests with my daughter has been my greatest joy!

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS FOR YOU AND YOUR PATIENTS?

For me, success is restoring my patients’ sense of themselves. Whether restoring a breast cancer patient’s sense of wholeness after mastectomy, or rebuilding an injured hand to allow a worker to get back on the job, getting people back to the activities that make them who they are is how I define success.

Dr. Parikh is currently accepting new patients at Baystate Plastic Surgery, and sees patients in both Springfield and Ware. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 413-794-5363.



WATCH THIS!

Dr. Parikh discusses his patient care philosophy at baystatehealth.org/plastic.