

To My Patients:

This letter is to inform you that I will be retiring on June 24, 2022.

I am happy to announce that Wilson Centre Family Practice has been very fortunate to recruit Dr. Robin MacKay to take over my practice. He will be available in early July to take over your care. For patients who live outside the TriCities area and have been contemplating pursuing a doctor closer to home, this would be the time to seek out such physicians.

I first came to Wilson Family Practice on a temporary basis in 1989 when it was still Leigh Square and I returned on a permanent basis in 1993.

When I initially took over Dr Colin Yarrow's practice, it was with the intention of reviewing my decision in 5 years. Well, here it is 29 years later. There was no review. During my initial time here I got to know my patients and, with time, my practice felt almost like a friendship group. As time went on, my patients began to feel like a large extended family. Many friends have wondered why I spent the equivalent of almost 5 years in my car seat driving from Vancouver to PoCo over the past nearly 30 years. It was because of you, my wonderful patients, who I have been so privileged to serve for all these years.

The benefit of family practice is the longitudinal care that family practitioners provide to their patients. To see the little babies now go off to college and university, or find a career of their choice has been such a joy to have witnessed. To observe the middle aged folks slowly move into retirement to enjoy the fruits of their labour has also been rewarding. But even more important is the trust you have invested in me to share your most private information. This allowed me to consider the entire family dynamic when dealing with issues at hand. I was better able to create a comprehensive care plan. I have learned so much from you. So many of you have shared your personal as well as family successes and failures and I have always felt it a privilege that you would share these parts of your life with me. I believe I have learned many aspects of life through my interactions with you and this has most certainly strengthened my practice as a family physician.

I have tried my very best to be your support during your various illnesses, sometimes with success and sometimes not to the level of your expectation. Medicine is very challenging and sometimes frustrating and limiting for both patients and physicians. Negotiating the benefits of highly subsidized medical care along with the urgency to get treatment in the expected time frame for optimal outcomes has its limitations.

For these past many years, I have been so fortunate to have been associated with the wonderful supportive family of both doctors and staff at Wilson Centre Family Practice. We have very dedicated staff who always strive to do their best in good times and in challenging times such as during the COVID crisis. Excellent patient care is always the priority from the front desk to the examining room.

I just turned 68 years old and I am starting to feel the effects of the rigours of family practice. I have had some health issues of late and I now need to redirect my energy from my medical practice to myself and my family. My wife has been retired for 2 years and my daughter is off to university. It's time to enjoy the retirement that several of my patients suggested can't be over rated.

In closing, I wish you all the very best in the future. I have really enjoyed my career serving you to the best of my abilities. I will be forever grateful for having the opportunity to be your doctor.

Regards,

Dr Tom Jacobs