

## What's a Residency Practice?

As you may know, Dr. Longenecker and Dr. Esch formed Mad River Family Practice in July of 1998. Mad River Family Practice is a little different from your usual family doctor's office. Mad River Family Practice is a residency practice.

Dr. Longenecker and Dr. Esch are faculty physicians in Mad River Family Practice. In addition, we have four family doctors who are resident physicians. Dr. Okuley and Dr. Rogers are third year residents and Dr. Mautone and Dr. Lomenzo are second year residents. A residency provides the supervised experience that family doctors must have after medical school to become board-certified family doctors. Our resident physicians have already had one year of experience at The Ohio State University Medical Center following medical school. They are licensed or soon-to-be licensed in the State of Ohio and are now spending two additional years of supervised practice in our community.

Resident physicians are required to review each case they see with Dr. Longenecker or Dr. Esch before you leave the office. If you have a complicated problem or you are admitted to the hospital the faculty physicians will personally see you as well. Faculty and resident physicians learn from each other, so don't be surprised if we ask permission for another physician, for example, to look at a rash or listen to a heart murmur.

Mad River Family Practice also has a family nurse practitioner. Oralea A. Pittman RN-C, FNP, cares for patients in cooperation with Dr. Longenecker and Dr. Esch. Her specialty is preventive care for families, teaching patients about and monitoring chronic illnesses, and caring for minor illnesses. If your condition is more serious or complex, she will ask Dr. Longenecker or Dr. Esch to participate in your care.

Because of his responsibilities in the residency program, Dr. Longenecker no longer has patients for whom he is the only doctor. He will continue to see patients one day a week and on call, but now shares responsibility for the care of patients with Ms. Pittman and the resident physicians. He will continue as the "teaching doctor" for his patients and the physician under whom insurance will be billed. However, he has asked that all of his patients be connected to either Ms. Pittman or one of the resident physicians as the person they will generally see here in the office.

Patients in Mad River Family Practice are helping us prepare new doctors for rural family practice. Advantages of participating in such a practice include participating in a practice that is involved in education and up-to-date with the latest medical developments and a practice that continues the style and quality of medical care that you have come to expect of Dr. Longenecker and Dr. Esch. Hopefully, some of these resident physicians will choose to stay in Logan County following graduation.

We realize, however, that not all patients desire to be a part of a residency practice. If you do not want to remain with Mad River Family Practice, you have other options. Dr. Wenger, a family doctor with Oakhill Medical Associates, for example, is accepting new patients and would be happy to assume your care. We will transfer your records to any doctor of your choice.

If you still have questions, we encourage you to address those questions at the time of your visit with any of our nurses, our physicians, or with Ms. Pittman. Or you may call 599-1411 or 465-0080 during the day and ask to speak with Tara Wagner, our residency coordinator, or Arlis Gascho, our practice administrator.