

ADVANCED ORTHOPAEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE

“The Pride of Ownership”: Seamless Orthopaedic Care

By KENT ROBERTS | Photography by KAREN DORSEY



David R. Mack, M.D., managing partner of Advanced Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, spoke with me about staying abreast of new developments in healthcare while also ensuring that patients are never viewed as statistics.

PHYSICIAN OWNERSHIP & INDIVIDUALIZED CARE

“We practice at a physician-owned hospital, which has a lot of advantages in that we are completely involved in every aspect of patient care. So many physicians these days have an adverse relationship with hospitals, and sometimes patients can get caught in the middle.

“Being physician-owners, we have the advantage of showing the pride of ownership that any business owner would show and being able to demonstrate that in the patient care. I think

there are a lot of significant benefits patients can receive when the doctors are the first and last advocate for them throughout the entire care process.

“Rather than there being this sort of tiered or layered approach to patient care between hospital administrators and board members and physicians and physicians’ extenders—nurses, PAs, and others—we as business owners and hospital owners as well as patient care providers can provide all this for patients, really, virtually seamlessly.

“As hospital owners as well as physicians, we can provide patient care virtually seamlessly.”

“Doctors and patients benefit from a more individualized approach to care. But there’s no doubt that the trend is—and is going to be for a long time to come—toward decreasing that individualized approach to patient care and treating people more as statistics or numbers.”

SUBSPECIALTY EXPERTISE

“There are many orthopaedic physicians in the country who practice general orthopaedics. The field of knowledge in orthopaedic surgery is so vast, I think it’s virtually impossible to stay current on every body part. There’s just too much to know.

“Virtually all the doctors in our practice have received some sort of subspecialized training in their field of interest. In my particular case, it’s a subspecialty certificate in sports medicine. Several of the doctors have additional fellowship training in spine surgery, foot surgery, hand surgery, etc.

“The doctors in our practice travel regularly; we visit doctors in other parts of the country who are doing something new and exciting that we’d like to see. We maintain our current

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board certification and subspecialty status, in addition to going to meetings and staying current that way.

“In our group, the doctors subspecialize so that they can maintain their focus, stay absolutely current on whatever area of interest they may have, and then deliver that care especially for their patients.”

TREATING HIGH-LEVEL ATHLETES

“It’s a challenge and a reward at the same time. It’s challenging because the person who you’re treating has, at times, very high goals, in terms of their own performance. Sometimes the severity of the injury makes it difficult to return them to the level of activity they had before the injury. It requires a lot of time, patience, counseling, and a lot of skill, to be perfectly honest, to get people where they want to be.”

ON-SITE PHYSICAL THERAPY

“The advantage to patients is that we can directly oversee their care. We have a close personal relationship with the physical therapist so that we can talk and have an open dialogue much more easily than we could with a physical therapist we don’t know well.”

SAFER MEDICINE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

“We’re very technically advanced in our office. We have both digital imaging and electronic medical records.

“Digital imaging enhances accuracy. When you’re imaging digitally, you can do it all on

a computer, just like an architect or an engineer would do a CAD program on the computer to draw a house.

“We were also one of the very early adopters of electronic medical records in Houston. There are a lot of advantages to EMRs. If a patient calls you, for example, after hours, and you happen to be on call, you can go to your computer, log in securely, and pull up their medical records.

“Now you have a lot more information right at your fingertips. It keeps you more organized, and in many ways, I think it keeps patients safer.”

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE SOLUTION

In business for 30 years, Advanced Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine offers two locations with all-inclusive orthopaedic solutions for residents of the Houston area. [LH](#)

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