

Doc Talk

New!

Get to know your peers in Doc Talk, CME's new interview department! Join us every month as we talk to GPs across Canada about their careers, their lives and their quirks.



Affiliations:

Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus; Weight Management Clinic; Involved in the steering committee for CME programs at the University of Ottawa.

Based in:

Ottawa, Ontario

Special interests:

Medical education

Interesting facts:

I am the proud mother of three fine young men—ages 22, 19 and 17. Also, I have been married for 24 years to my first-year medicine anatomy partner, David Burt, who has been my partner in medicine and in life ever since.

1. What book are you currently reading?

I just finished reading Kathy Reich's, *Monday Mourning*. I love murder mysteries and Kathy Reich has lots of gory details! Elizabeth George is my other favourite writer.

2. What is your most memorable experience as a doctor, so far?

My most memorable experience as a doctor is one I shared with my husband, David. We were in our fourth year of practice in the state of Iowa and still "wet behind the ears." One day, we just returned to the office after lunch when we were greeted by our nurse who said that there was a lady with abdominal pain who looked pregnant. She was indeed pregnant and in active labour. Dates are uncertain, but she looked to be in her late second trimester, judging from the small size of her abdomen. She had no medical insurance and, thus, received no prenatal care. She had actually walked to our office!

A quick examination revealed a completely dilated cervix. David carried her into the back seat of our Honda Civic and I drove fairly quickly, straight to the ER of our local hospital, while Beth, our nurse, phoned ahead to warn the caseroom of our arrival. We were the only physicians who did deliveries in this small town of 2,000 people. There were no obstetricians, only a general surgeon as a backup.

David delivered the tiny infant about five minutes later—she weighed approximately 350 grams! While he was attending to the baby, I proceeded to deliver the placenta. Lo and behold, I felt a foot! A few minutes later, much to everyone's surprise, I delivered a baby boy. This infant weighed 450 grams. We had to suddenly remember all that we learned in our neonatal rotation at the Royal Victoria Hospital, years ago.

There was a bittersweet ending—the infant girl did not survive, but the boy did. We continued to take care of him after his initial care at the closest tertiary care centre.

3. If you could be any movie character, who would you be and why?

I would be Jodie Foster's character in *Panic Room*—protecting my child against the "bad guys;" using my wit and quick thinking to save our lives; keeping cool in the face of danger.

4. What did you want to be when you were younger?

I always wanted to teach, and Lily, my younger sister, endured many of my "lectures."



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Stay Tuned...

Join us next month as we *Doc Talk* to **Dr. Laurie Pereles**, who is a part of the Medical Staff at the Rockyview General Hospital, Calgary, Alberta.

5. Who inspires you?

My father. We came to Canada in 1968 as immigrants. My father was in his mid-forties and was comfortable with his life as a small shoe store owner in Hong Kong. He gave up that comfort to come to Canada with the hopes of giving his children the opportunity to seek higher education and a better life. He did not speak English and had no post-secondary education, but my father has an insatiable appetite to learn, to improve himself. He became a shoe repairman and worked very hard with my mother by his side. He never took a vacation (he couldn't take one) for the first 20 years he was in Canada. He taught himself to speak English and has made Canadian friends in his community. He helps his new immigrant friends and is always the first one to offer a helping hand. Through all this, he maintains optimism and finds joy in all that he has. At 82 years old, he gets up every day at 4:30 a.m. to exercise! After three hours of training, he is ready to take on his day!

6. What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

In life, always take the high road, not the easy one.

7. Do you have any hobbies that others might be surprised to know about?

This is not really a hobby, but I love watching tennis. I actually plan our annual holidays to fall on the Wimbledon weeks, so I don't miss any games. I am a huge fan of Andre Agassi.

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Wanna be interviewed?

If you'd like to talk to our readers or would like to nominate a colleague, feel free to contact us at cme@sta.ca.

You could be the next to *Doc Talk*!