

October 1, 2017

A LETTER FROM DR. BOTSFORD

To all my patients and the PCOR community:

After more than 40 years dedicated to pediatrics, I have decided to retire at the end of this year.

First and foremost, I want to thank all my patients' parents for giving me the incredible privilege of helping you raise your children in the safest and healthiest way possible. I have celebrated with many and grieved with a few, but for all of my patients, from the tiniest premies to the most challenging teens, I have always tried to give practical advice based on sound science, experience and common sense.

As I look back, I am amazed at the progress we have made in diagnosing, treating and preventing many conditions. Some terrible diseases have both emerged and virtually disappeared during my career (eg Reye's Syndrome and Toxic Shock Syndrome), while others have emerged and seem to have gained a permanent foothold (eg HIV and Lyme disease). Medicines for asthma and even cancer are much safer and much more effective. Many new vaccines have been introduced in the last 40 years, making once common diseases rare (eg Rotavirus and HIB or Pneumococcal meningitis). Now we even have a vaccine against a virus that causes cancer (the HPV vaccine).

Still, those of us who have reached a certain maturity realize that what we consider progress today may be considered quaint in only a few years. As new discoveries are made and new treatments emerge, I am sure that physicians, nurse practitioners and staff at PCOR will continue to provide excellent care to the children of our community for many years to come.

As for me, I will be doing some travelling, but my roots are here in the Washington area. You may see me in the community, but probably without a koala clinging to my neck - he will be retired too.

