

Making a Go of It

Energetic dermatologist keeps her namesake practice growing and her patients happy
By Cheryl England

Dr. Amy Derick runs a successful dermatology practice with three locations that serve more than 5,000 patients per month. Her success, she says, is due to her team's commitment to excellence.

LIKE MANY highly successful physicians, Chicago native Amy Derick, MD, has always been an overachiever. In high school, the four-year varsity soccer player achieved top rankings in math and was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." She finished her BS degree from the University of Notre Dame in only three years, graduating at the early age of 20.

From Notre Dame it was a short hop to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine where Dr. Derick received her MD and was named the chief resident in dermatology at the University of Chicago Hospitals. "I chose dermatology for several reasons," Dr. Derick says. "Dermatology allows me to form long-term relationships with my patients. Plus I love the variety of procedures and patients. It is satisfying to be able to diagnose visible skin conditions, and it's rewarding that patients tend to improve quickly after treatment."

During Dr. Derick's last year of residency in 2006, she met her husband Michael, a hedge fund manager. At a time when many young physicians were opting for employment with a large practice, the newly married couple decided to open their own practice, Derick Dermatology, where he serves as president and she as the medical director. In the ten years since Derick Dermatology opened, the practice has grown to 100 employees working in three locations in Chicago's suburbs—Barrington, Crystal Lake, and Elgin. Derick Dermatology sees more than 5,000 patients each month and receives top reviews from many verified websites.

Ironically, Dr. Derick doesn't see the growth of Derick Dermatology as being rapid. "We actually grew the practice slowly over the years," she says. "I was adamant that my patients have the very best quality of care. Quality, not speed, is our priority."

Derick Dermatology continues to grow. Dr. Derick says, "Including myself, we now have twelve dermatology providers, and as we grow, we are able to provide extra services such as in-house surgery,



and practice in-house subspecialties such as dermatopathology and complex medical dermatology."

Outside of running a busy practice, Dr. Derick is active in the Chicago Medical Society as well as specialty societies such as the Illinois Dermatological Society, where she serves as president, the Chicago Dermatological Society, where she serves as vice president, and the Women's Dermatologic Society, where she has held numerous positions. Dr. Derick is also a clinical instructor of dermatology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and acts as the dermatology liaison for the Illinois Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee. Despite Dr. Derick's busy schedule she and her husband still find the time to enjoy their three young children—six-year-old Charlie, five-year-old Henry and three-year-old Jane.

All this, and Dr. Derick has yet to turn 40. She says, "I'm proud our staff is committed to the highest standards of patient care. Our growth is how patients reward us for our being committed to excellence." 

Dr. Derick's Career Achievements

A MEMBER of Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Derick graduated from Notre Dame with a pre-med degree summa cum laude. She earned her MD with honors from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Following up with an internship in internal medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Dr. Derick then returned to the University of Chicago for her residency in dermatology, becoming the chief resident during her last year there. She's won numerous awards, including the 2015 Distinguished Service Award for Early Achievement by the Medical and Biological Sciences Alumni Association of the University of Chicago, which recognizes alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the University's Division of Biological Sciences through research, clinical care and professional service. Dr. Derick also is an accomplished author, and due to her outgoing and energetic personality she is a frequent speaker at events in Illinois and across the United States.