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News Record photo

The Thunder Basin Team: Dr. Joseph F. Allegretto, Nicole Heer, Dan Nicholls, Jessica Halko, Shellie Simons, Tristyn Richendifer, Nicole Smith, Dr. Mark G. Murphy.

Thunder Basin Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

“A” team who offers a more complete package of patient care

For 18 years without fail, Dr. Mark Murphy has driven the 125 mile trek from Douglas to Gillette to provide expert orthopaedic care to the Campbell County community--nearly 1000 round trips in all-- through the best and worst of Wyoming weather. That's almost 250,000 miles, and why? "Because I can provide the quality of care that the people of Northeast Wyoming deserve," says Murphy, "the kind of care afforded in large cities." After college (Colgate) and medical school (Brown), Dr. Murphy trained in orthopaedics at Stanford, then completed a demanding fellowship program in sports medicine and joint replacement at the prestigious Kerlan-Jobe clinic in Los Angeles--one of the finest in the world. His ongoing dedication to his craft made him the first in the region to perform arthroscopic rotator cuff repairs and minimally invasive joint replacements, both designed to reduce tissue disruption and recovery time. Murphy says, "I enjoy the challenge of difficult problems and how to create innovative and individualized reconstructions using the least disruptive means."

Dr. Murphy and his Wyoming native wife, Kate, started Thunder Basin Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Douglas in 1997 after he completed 13 years in the US Army Medical Corps and a deployment to the Sinai Peninsula. The practice has grown extensively since then and now includes fellow orthopedists Joe Allegretto, Rob Woodruff and Mark Ryzewicz, along with 2 physician assistants, Dan Nicholls and Tristyn Richendifer, who have been trained and are supervised by the physicians themselves. Dr. Ryzewicz has fellowship training in total joint replacement, foot and ankle surgery, and sports medicine. He currently sees patients in Sheridan and Worland. Dr. Woodruff completed

a spine surgery fellowship and, although he lives in Rapid City, commutes to Gillette to offer cutting edge spine care. They are both new to the practice as of 2015.

Dr. Allegretto teamed up with Dr. Murphy in the latter part of 2003. He has been practicing orthopedics in Gillette since 1993, having joined Dr. Baker's practice after completing his orthopedic residency at the University of Pittsburgh--long considered to be one of the best programs in the nation, especially with regard to sports medicine. Drs. Allegretto and Murphy share a common patient-care philosophy, ingrained in them during their training, which is simply to 'do the right thing'. Allegretto says, "We function as a highly compatible, integrated machine that offers seamless continuity between providers, mostly because we have similar backgrounds and training. At the same time, we both bring different experiences and talents that afford a more complete package of patient care."

Although he no longer performs surgeries, his partners were known to have said that 'he had the best hands in the business'--a title that he believes should rightfully be given to Dr. Murphy. "I have seen first-hand the surgical abilities and the results of many of the orthopedists in this region, as well as those of world renowned surgeons during my training, and Dr. Murphy stands head and shoulders above them all," he says. Dr. Allegretto sees patients only in the clinic, now, providing evaluations and instituting treatments of a nonoperative nature; his goal is to provide care that avoids surgery to the extent possible. When surgery becomes necessary, however, he is extremely confident that Dr. Murphy will provide the very best in surgical care available.

Today, Dr. Murphy no longer has to

drive the treacherous Douglas Highway to his new office in Gillette. TBO now travels in a private plane from Douglas to Gillette and points beyond, including Sheridan, Worland, Laramie, and Casper. The Gillette office has providers each day of the week, and often has secondary coverage in addition to reduce delays in offering appointments.



Thunder Basin Orthopaedic's Office

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