



SUELLYWN STEWART '77, M.D.

Family Physician | Licking Memorial Health Partners

For Suellywn Stewart, becoming a physician required hard work, sacrifice and the courage to take a risk.

Dr. Stewart earned her undergraduate degree in sociology from La Roche College and spent 15 years as a social worker in Western Pennsylvania and was a practicing physician assistant before she decided to embark on a new career path. At age 42, she was accepted to Saba University School of Medicine in the Netherlands Antilles and went onto residency at the Ohio State University Family Medicine Residency Program.

“I left the country to pursue this career,” said Dr. Stewart, who is now a family physician at Licking Memorial Hospital Health Partners in Johnstown, Ohio. “I took a risk of leaving a steady job, cashed in my pension and sold most of my belongings to relocate in a foreign country to go to medical school.”

In addition to traditional family medicine, Dr. Stewart also worked in comprehensive wound care, hyperbaric medicine, and clinical and classroom teaching. Presently she precepts medical students and physician assistant students in her office.

“Family medicine is unique in that we treat the entire patient – physically, mentally and psychosocially,” she said. “When I teach clinical medicine, I instill the characteristics of the social worker I became as a result of my degree from La Roche: a keen knowledge of the community resources that so many patients need in their lives, and the ability to communicate with a patient for both medical and emotional issues.”

Dr. Stewart is the immediate past president of the Ohio Academy of Family Medicine (OAFP), serving on the board since 2007 and as president from 2014 to 2015. She also served on the OAFP Executive Committee and Advocacy Committee, and as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. She is vice chair of the OAFP Family Medicine Foundation and serves on the CORE Review Board that publishes the CORE Content Review of Family Medicine.