

Please Sign In and use this article's on page print button to print this article.

HEALTH CARE
THE LIST: EXECUTIVE Q&A

Archdeacon on a mission to raise level of care in Cincinnati



Michael Archdeacon is CEO of University of Cincinnati Physicians.
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

IN THIS ARTICLE

Executive Profiles
Topic



By Liz Engel
Staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier
Mar 2, 2023

Listen to this article 5 min



The following article is a supplement to the Courier's 2023 list of largest physician groups.

Dr. Michael Archdeacon was 12 when he first realized he wanted to pursue a career in medicine. But leading a large practice group? That wasn't initially part of the plan.

It took a "series of steps" to get there. Archdeacon, a native of Millville, Ohio, just outside Hamilton, first landed at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 2001, eager to work with longtime surgeon Dr. Peter Stern. Years later, Archdeacon would succeed Stern as chair of the college's department of orthopedic surgery, following a four-year stint as UC Medical Center's chief of staff.

In mid-2021, he added that aforementioned title: CEO of UC Physicians. The group routinely ranks as the region's largest, with more than 1,000 doctors spanning 93 specialty and subspecialty groups.

It's a unique structure. UC Physicians serves as the "practice plan" for the College of Medicine, a separate business entity that represents faculty who see patients in the community as physicians and clinicians. The plan then leases its services almost exclusively to UC Health. The separation provides UC Health with a labor force and protects the college's academic mission, Archdeacon said. But regardless of affiliation, the end goal remains the same.

"No one should ever have to leave the city to get the care they need," he said. "Today, the alignment between UC Health, UC College of Medicine and UC Physicians to accomplish that has never been better."

Describe your role as a physician. I'm a trauma surgeon. I take care of really bad broken bones – car accidents, falls, gunshot wounds. You have to be able to roll with the punches, because your day can change at a moment's notice. You have to like to deal with chaos and complexity. I've found I thrive in that environment.

UC Medical Center is in the midst of a \$221 million revamp, which includes a new front entrance, surgical department and an emergency department expansion. Why is this such a key project? Health care is a choice economy. Patients choose where they want to go, so there is some value to having a (new) facade. But we're also an incredibly complex emergency department. Bringing that up to modern day is going to be a real game changer. These improvements allow us to continue to do the things only we can do.

What was your first job? I had a paper route from the time I was about 11 until about 15. After that, I worked in a gas station.

What's your typical day-to-day? It's a little different than 10 years ago. I'm about 50% doctor, 50% administrator now. I see patients Thursday afternoons in Clifton, and I operate all day Tuesdays and Fridays. The rest of the week, and on weekends, in middle of the night or whenever else, I do the administrative things, attend meetings, work on strategy.

Favorite place you've lived outside Cincinnati? New Orleans. It's a cultural mecca: the food, music, architecture, the people, the language. It's got a little bit of everything, and it's just a fun place to be.

Are you a night owl or early bird? Both. I usually get up at 4:30, and I'm at my office by 5:30 or 6. Then I usually work for a few hours in the evening and go to bed around 11:30 or midnight.

How would your employees describe you? Direct and honest. I set a high expectation. My parents taught me to appreciate people for what they do, so I try to get to know people's names and acknowledged their work and create an environment where they feel like incredibly important contributors to the team. I particularly enjoy the strategy (involved in my role).

What's the best book you've read recently? Wine is one of my hobbies, and I recently read this book called "Cork Dork" by Bianca Bosker. She gave an overview of the book and led a wine tasting at the Mercantile Library about a year and a half ago, and it was awesome. The book is very interesting and talks about the path to becoming a master sommelier.

Dr. Michael Archdeacon

Title: CEO, UC Physicians; senior associate dean of clinical affairs, professor and chair, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, UC College of Medicine

Career path: UC College of Medicine, assistant professor, 2001-present; UC professor and chair, department of orthopedic surgery, 2013-present; UC Medical Center, chief of staff, 2008-2012; medical director of operative services, 2011-2020; UC Physicians, CEO, 2021-present

Age: 55

Residence: White Oak

Hometown: Hamilton

Family: Wife, Lynne; four adult children

RELATED CONTENT

MY VIEW: More philanthropy needed toward women's organizations

