

Chapter Member Spotlight



Name: Danelle Fisher, M.D.

Practice location: Playa Vista, CA

Number of years in practice: 25 years

Danelle was raised in Los Angeles and attended UC Santa Barbara for college, Albert Einstein College of Medicine for medical school, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles for residency. Straight out of residency, she started in private practice in the Westchester area of Los Angeles, eventually buying and running the practice for 17 years. After many years, she decided she didn't love the business side of medicine, so she sold her practice and joined the Medical Doctors of Saint John's, moving up the road a couple of miles to the Playa Vista area of Los Angeles.

She's been there for 9 years and works with 4 other pediatricians. She is on staff at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. She is currently on her sixth time serving as the chair of pediatrics at Saint John's. She spent 8 years as the Medical Director of the Cleft Palate Team at Saint John's. She has also served as an AAP-CA2 representative for 6 months, a board member of the Los Angeles Pediatric Society for 10 years, and as a media consultant who has been quoted in over 200 articles in mainstream media. Her favorite claim to fame was an appearance in 2015 on the Jimmy Kimmel show for a bit about doctors telling patients to get vaccinated. If you have never seen it, Google it. She is wearing a red sweater and you won't miss her. When not at work, Danelle loves spending time with her husband, 14-year-old son, and 11-year-old dog. She enjoys traveling, reading, exercising and spending time with friends and family.

What do you do before work that sets the tone for your day?

My day begins with coffee and oatmeal while doing Wordle, Connections and the LA Times crossword puzzle. I then take my son to school, which is our special time to chat. I get to work early and savor the quiet in my office before the day begins.

What are some challenges or struggles that you face at work?

Our job as pediatricians can be tough when patients or parents are challenging, even when we are doing our best for them. The struggle of being a people pleaser is real.

How do you work through or overcome your challenges or struggles?

My greatest comfort comes from being able to discuss patients with my colleagues. No one understands what I go through quite like them and they know how to make me feel better if there is a challenging case or a difficult interaction. They also ground me and remind me that I cannot please everyone.

After work, what do you do for your own wellness?

I work out with a trainer twice a week, get monthly massages at Burke Williams, and socialize with friends and family. My father is a retired urologist and I heed his advice to take a week off every 3-4 months, which is also part of my wellness journey.

From what/whom does your inspiration or motivation stem?

My inspiration is the patients in my care. From birth to college, these kids make me smile and that is exactly why I knew a career in pediatrics would bring me happiness.

Wellness Tip: What is the one thing you would recommend to our readership to do each day to take care of oneself?

Even though life is busy, finding 5 minutes to myself daily is my recharge. When you can clear your mind, then you can find your center.