

My Sabbatical



I would like to update my patients on my future plans. For years my wife, Mackie and I have contemplated taking a trip around the eastern United States in our boat named the Endorphin Voyager. We have decided we will take this trip in 2019. We wanted to take this trip while we are healthy. I do not want to retire any time soon so I figured I would just take a sabbatical for 1 year starting January 1st 2019. I want to make sure my patients could still receive high quality medical care. As you know, Stacia Groll, M.D. and Emily Karnik ARNP have been a major part of this practice for years. I am excited to announce we have another doctor who is starting 8/1/2018. His name is John Turner and he is from Tallahassee and went to the FSU College of Medicine. He did his family practice residency at Tallahassee Memorial Family Practice residency program. I think he will be a wonderful addition to our group.

Now a word about the trip we are excited to experience. It is called American's Great Loop. There are several hundred boaters that take this trip every year. We have met many of them on our cruises to the Bahamas over the past 10 years. Everyone we talk to who has completed the loop say it is one of the most wonderful trips they have ever taken. It is about 5000 miles long and goes counter clockwise in a circle from Sandestin, Florida down the West coast to Key West and then up the East Coast of the United States and then into Canada. We then take the Trent Severn Canal in Canada and cruise over to the Great Lakes which are supposed to be a beautiful cruising ground. The last portion of the trip goes through Chicago and down the Mississippi and the Tenn-Tom rivers and coming out Mobile Bay taking the intracoastal back to Sandestin.

I plan on having a blog documenting our trip and staying in touch with family, friends and anyone who may be interested in following our adventures. I will stay in contact with the office intermittently. I plan to return the end of 2019.

I would like to thank my patients for trusting me and my staff and allowing us to provide your health care for all of these years and hopefully many more on my return.

Karl Hempel, M.D.