

To my patients:

Many of you know that over the past several years, my dedication to medical volunteerism has grown. I have had the opportunities to travel with Passion to Heal in Rajasthan, India, and more recently with Himalayan Healthcare to rural Nepal. My experiences with global health have inspired me to do more, and to expose my children to a different way of life than the one we enjoy here.

If you haven't heard me speak of my medical volunteering trips, you have surely heard me speak about my daughters, Mimi, Lena and Julia. My husband, Andrew, and I moved to Annapolis in 1997, and have been working hard in our respective practices (Andrew is an OB/Gyn) for many years. We are now looking forward to a new adventure as we plan a family sabbatical from August, 2015 to May, 2016.

We are planning to travel and volunteer with our daughters in South America and Asia. We will be involved with Timmy and GlobeMed programs in the Amazon region of Ecuador, as well as with other medical based charities in Otavalo, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Vietnam. We hope to use our medical skills to help others in these places, and we also hope to demonstrate the importance of volunteerism to our kids.

What does this mean to you?

My schedule will be open for appointments until August 1, 2015. It will reopen on May 16th, 2016. I am very lucky to have colleagues who are supportive and willing to help me achieve this journey for my family. Drs. Bailey, Diamond, Ambro, Buckley, and Eaton will accommodate any urgent medical issues, follow-ups, and be available for medication refills as needed. I will be in contact regularly with the office to answer questions. The addition of Michelle DeMattia, P.A. to our practice will allow my patients to have follow ups in my absence. While the logistics of this are both exciting, I want to assure you that in the months leading up to this journey, my wish is that your appointments with me should continue to be about you and your health. Your appointment time is YOUR time, and I write this letter as a way to communicate with you without using your appointment time.

As the date approaches, I will have links to a blog for those of you who are interested in our adventure. I will also have information about the various charities. I am very lucky to have a job that I love so much, and I can't wait to return and share my new experiences with all of you!