

A moment with Dr. Gregory Smith

Athens Gastroenterology Center

There's an old saying that doctors make the worst patients. But for Dr. Gregory Smith, his experience as a patient is what makes him a better physician.

Born with a heart defect which required him to have two open heart operations (one as a child and another as an adult) his parents were told that he would not live past childhood. However, due to advances in cardiovascular technology, Dr. Smith's defect was successfully repaired, and he now maintains an unbridled appreciation for life.

It was also in the hospital where he found his mentor, Dr. Melvin Levine, and the inspiration to become a physician. The experience has proven to be his greatest resource in developing the standard

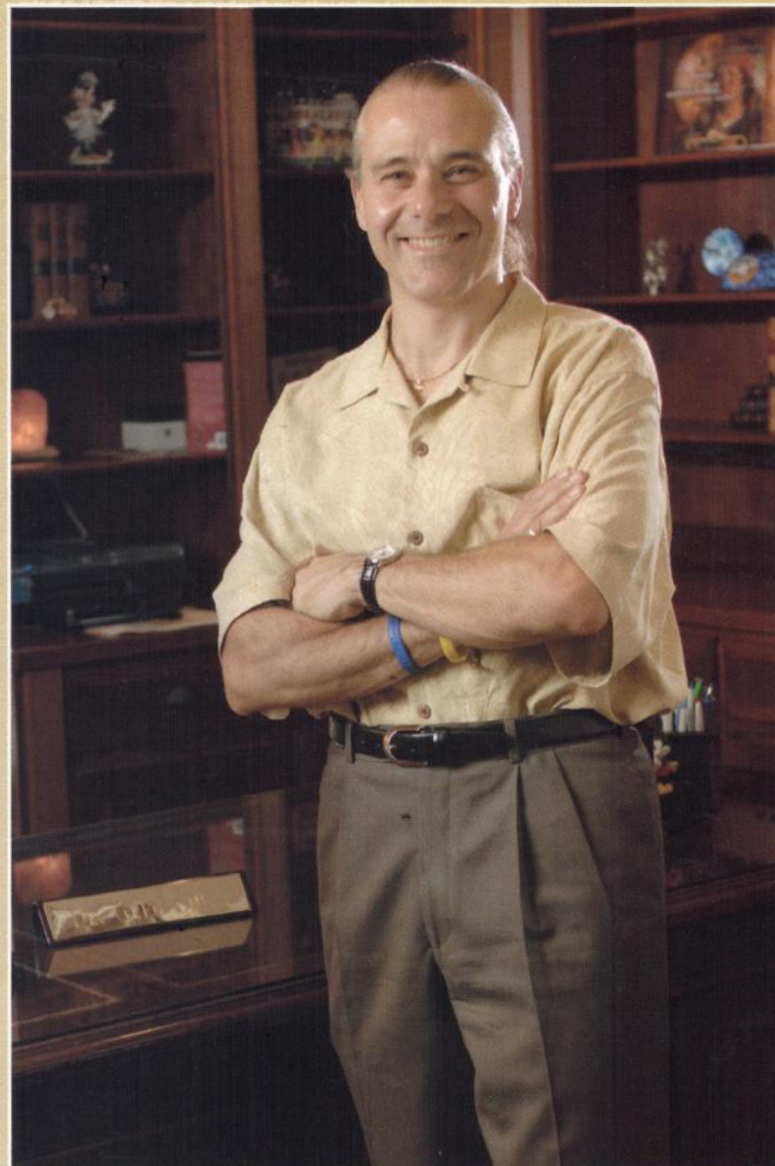
"It's essential to offer an environment that sets patients at ease."

DR. GREGORY SMITH Listening to concerns, answering

questions, and establishing personal interaction with each patient are the most important aspects of patient care for the Center's employees.

Specializing in gastrointestinal disorders, liver disorders and endoscopy procedures, the Athens Gastroenterology Center opened its doors in 2002. The Center's current offices in West Athens were completed in a unique ski-resort style atmosphere in 2005 and were designed with comfort in mind. Patients are welcomed with warm gold-colored walls, a stone fire place, custom artwork from local artist Alan Campbell and comfortable sofas in the waiting area. It's all part of Dr. Smith's goal to create a soothing, inviting atmosphere for both staff and patients. "It's essential to offer an environment

for patient care in his practice. "We focus on the patient as a human being in all ways," he said.



that sets patients at ease. AGC also strives to be a comprehensive group of caregivers which treats each patient as a unique clinical challenge, applying excellent care and respect to promote health and dignity," Dr. Smith said.

A practicing physician for 17 years, Dr. Smith is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Emory University's medical school. He also trained at hospitals associated with Harvard University before completing a fellowship with the University of Massachusetts Medical Center.

Dr. Smith takes pride in his ethics as a doctor and believes that actions speak louder than words. In addition to operating a full-time medical practice, he volunteers regularly at Mercy Health Center. Dr. Smith spends his free time with his wife and three children and is also an avid cyclist. For the past 15 years, he has participated in the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge, a cancer fund-raising event that requires participants to cycle 200 miles across the state.

The Athens Gastroenterology Center is located at 21 Jefferson Place, Suite 1 (between the Navy School and Sunset Avenue off of Prince Avenue). For more information about services provided by Dr. Smith and his staff, please call (706) 548-0058 or visit the Website www.athensgicenter.com.

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