

March 18, 2019

Dear Patients, Colleagues, and Friends,

In 1985, I moved from Nashville with my husband to practice pediatrics in Oregon. It has been my privilege, honor, pleasure, and joy to serve the children of Oregon City and the surrounding area. Your children's smiling faces and the friendships developed have kept me going through the years of changes in medicine. We were one of the first pediatric clinics in Oregon to be awarded for the 5-star Patient-Centered Primary Care Home; however, we could not have done it without your help! Now the rumors you have heard in the last couple years are finally coming true: my retirement. I will still look forward to seeing anyone who wants to make an appointment for a last well or sick visit with me until June 26th, which will be my last day.

Many of you have already met Dr. Magdalenne Corso, who has been job sharing with me for almost two years. Like me, she has reared three children and been in private practice for over twelve years. She is a very caring and thorough physician, with whom I have great confidence. I hope you will support her as well as other private practices since they seem to be a rarity these days. Urgent Care clinics are certainly convenient at times, but they often do not employ pediatricians and do not support the patient-centered primary care home concept. Studies show that the smaller practices are doing a superior job of caring for patients overall, mainly because we develop longer-standing relationships with the patients so they are better-known by their primary care provider and staff.

Many of you may wonder what my next step is. That remains to be seen. So far, I have two grandchildren to babysit, enjoy hiking and hope to do part of the Pacific Crest Trail this summer, have edited a few books and may write one myself, serve on two boards, and love to travel. Maybe I will try some new recipes, pick up my flute, and resume crocheting and knitting! My husband and I enjoy hiking, kayaking, traveling, and serving on mission trips together. Although it will all be fun, it is still not easy leaving what I devoted my life to doing. Thank you again for entrusting the care of your children to me all these years and please stay in touch!

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Nielsen, MD