

Viewpoints

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MY TURN By Sharlene Miller

Overdue praise for a local doctor

Writing this letter today is 10 years overdue. Ten years ago I was introduced to Robert Feldman, a vascular and general surgeon right here in Warwick.

I had a lump that needed to be biopsied and I was referred to him; quite a daunting task for any doctor I'm sure.

From the second I walked into his office I felt calm.

Immediately I felt I was in good hands, both literally (as I would soon find out) and figuratively.

Dr. Feldman took his time explaining biopsy procedures, ways he could do it, pros and cons of both, his suggestions, drawing me diagrams of where it was that he needed to go

(which is still in my file today). Even touched upon what would happen if it came out positive however he did wait for that conversation.

A few days later, prepped and ready for surgery, he spent more quality time with both me and my husband answering any questions, comforting us with his reassurance prior to the procedure.

He explained to me that he was going away on holiday the following day but the second he heard the results he would call.

Running errands two days later I received his call on my cell phone. I pulled over. He spent an hour plus with me on the phone.

It was a warm, sunny day where we both were that morning but he took his time, answered my questions and fully explained what our next steps were. I hung up with him ready for it all, feeling empowered to share with my family and knowing that everything was going to be OK.

Fast forward ten years later. Dr. Feldman has remained in my life. I was diagnosed with a reoccurrence eight years later, almost two years ago. Although he did all my first surgeries and left me very satisfied with his extensive work I found myself going to Sloan the second time.

However, during those middle years he remained my surgeon, would keep on top of my MRI's along with any other tests he thought I may benefit from and my breast exams. At the time, I felt more in control with him handling my case than my own oncologist.

Sad, but true. He is the doctor that found the second reoccurrence not my oncologist.

Why am I writing this letter now? Yesterday, I finally had my port removed for the second time! However, I did not want to go to the medical center to be put in twilight and spend a day recovering from anesthesia, etc. I just wanted it

removed.

I called, made an appointment to see him. He saw me on Tuesday and he took it out in his Warwick office on Friday - a day that he normally does not practice.

What kind of doctor does this?

I was not nervous. He was gentle, patient while giving me the needles to numb the area. The office surgical space was clean, prepped and ready to go.

I was at total peace in his space to do that procedure and the friendly almost family like chit chat while he was doing the procedure, extremely welcoming.

An interesting note: earlier that morning he had received a call from his son's school explaining an occurrence that had happened and that he needed to pick him up for an Xray. Dr. Feldman, knowing he had planned my surgery, had to make other arrangements for his son to get to the medical center.

He could have called and cancelled my appointment but did not.

Later I found out it was broken and thankfully he was there when he needed to be!

I could go on but this is a letter for the newspaper. I have been to many doctors unfortunately, and I can't stress enough how welcoming it is to have a regular doctor providing concierge level care in our own backyard! I have compared notes with friends and I always feel blessed leaving those conversations knowing I had the best care here without having to go into the city!

We all know that it's not just the traveling but the expense and stress of what goes along with that trip.

I know. I have done that comparison. Thank you Dr. Feldman for being the wonderful person, doctor and surgeon that you are and making the difference in my life!

Sharlene Miller lives in Warwick.

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