

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Gwynedd Pickett

Division of Neurosurgery



Gwynedd Pickett obtained her MD at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and completed her neurosurgical residency at the University of Western Ontario. She undertook a two year fellowship in cerebrovascular neurosurgery and interventional neuroradiology at the Greater Manchester Neurosciences Centre, Salford, UK, and subsequently became the first neurosurgeon in the UK to have a combined surgical and endovascular practice. In 2008, she returned home to Halifax where she lives with her husband Andrew, an opera singer, and their two sons. She is an Associate Professor in the Division of Neurosurgery, the Director of Cerebrovascular Surgery, and has recently taken on the role of Neurosurgery Residency Program Director. Her clinical work focuses on both open surgical repair and minimally invasive endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular disorders, as well as treatment of spinal disorders, trigeminal neuralgia, and tumors.



Away from work, she enjoys knitting, choral singing, reading (primarily fantasy and sciencefiction), scuba diving and skiing. She is a part-time Scout leader and loves retreating to the backwoods of Kejimikujik every summer with her family to canoe, hike and briefly unplug. She has been an award-winning poet, an archer, and competitive Scottish dancer

In my journey of international medical training, I have travelled to many countries and encountered many individuals and mentors who collectively left lasting positive impressions. I have admired them and always felt that I owed them for their dedication and commitment towards education and their clinical duties towards their patients. Some were perfect technical surgeons, and others were popular among their patients and colleagues because of their charismatic personality and social skills. Dr. Pickett is my mentor who has it all: not only a meticulous and excellent surgeon, but also a great human being, a dedicated teacher and, above all, a caring mother and wife with a beautiful family. She is simply a “Wonder Woman” and I am very proud to have trained under her and now consider her a mentor, teacher, friend and colleague.

Dr. Gwynedd Pickett is simply my hero neurosurgeon. She manages the challenging responsibility of being Dalhousie’s Neurosurgery Program Director, and also runs a very busy surgical practice of cerebrovascular neurosurgery. I have known Dr. Pickett for about 8 years, phoned her numerous times in the middle of the night to run urgent consults with her and assisted her in the operating room during many tough surgical cases. I have never seen someone as calm as Dr. Pickett especially during stressful times when managing life-threatening neurosurgical emergencies. Residents and medical students have loved working with her, and our residents have strived to be in her operating room. Indeed, Dr. Pickett has given a lot of her time and energy to her students and residents, with a serious commitment for teaching the next generation of neurosurgeons.

Besides being a busy cerebrovascular neurosurgeon, Dr. Pickett is a mother and wife. She multitasks between her busy household and career striking that fine balance to excel in both.

She’s a great role model for everyone to follow, and a great example that life isn’t just about work, but also family and friends. I believe I can speak on behalf of my fellow co-residents that we all owe Dr. Pickett, thanks for always teaching, supporting and mentoring us as we progressed in our training.

Submitted by Dr. Ayoub Dakson, Neurosurgery trainee graduate