

Michael S. Mitri, M.D.

Fair Oaks Women's Health is very pleased and proud to welcome Dr. Michael Mitri as a new ob/gyn physician to our group practice. Fair Oaks Women's Health was begun in 2000 by Dr. Bryan Jick who left an HMO group and started his own solo practice. Since then, we have continued to grow and are now adding our 4th ob/gyn doctor. We were looking for just the right person to join our group: someone highly skilled, extremely well-trained, and with a warm and caring personality whom you can trust. We feel confident that Dr. Mitri possesses all of these qualities! We know that you will like and trust Dr. Mitri as much as you trust all of the physicians here at Fair Oaks Women's Health.



Dr. Michael Mitri with twins he delivered

Michael Mitri as a Youth

Dr. Mitri was born in Los Angeles and grew up in La Canada, close to Pasadena. He attended the prestigious Delphi Academy in La Canada and graduated their high school with honors. While a student there, he also became the very first member of the Delphi Academy Boy Scout Troop 555 to become an Eagle Scout. His Eagle project was a blood drive working with the American Red Cross where he recruited most of the donors. Michael met John Travolta when his boy scout troop was chosen to be the honour guard at a ceremony honouring the actor.



Eagle Scout



Michael's Boy Scout Troop...with John Travolta!

When asked about Michael, his father, Issa Mitri, told us that “The two words that always come to my mind whenever I think of our son Michael, as an individual and not as our son, are ‘communication’ and ‘help’. He has always been an excellent communicator with all those he came in contact with. No matter their standing, communication abilities and so forth, he is always able to establish a good, solid, human line of communication, to either get his message across or to truly grasp what the other person is trying to communicate. On that communication line I could always sense compassion, and the willingness to help. Thus he has always made friends easily, had many friends and close associates throughout his growing years. He always seems in high spirits which seems to spread to the people around him.”

He always wanted to be a Doctor

“Mike wanted to become a doctor since early adolescence. He never wavered in this and did not let anything stop him. During the summer before starting college, he earned his EMT Certification. I recall the look on his face when he came home one evening during one of his EMT sessions with a big smile on his face because he delivered his first baby! He was ecstatic, and so were we. During another summer he helped with medical research at Cedars-Sinai and got his first published work.”



Michael with his younger brother, John, his mom Lacy and his father,

His education

Dr. Mitri attended college and graduate school at UC Riverside. In 2004, he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Biological Sciences and then in 2005 he earned his Master’s Degree in Molecular Biology. His academic achievements earned him full scholarships for undergraduate and graduate school.

Michael’s good friend, Jimmy Blalock told us, “Mike and I met when he was a Resident Advisor for the Pentland Dormitory. He was responsible for caring for, leading, and advising 30+ college freshmen: no easy task. Mike was known for being the sought after RA - he was the perfect mix of friend, supervisor, and mentor. Unlike the other RAs, he never got mad or yelled because those students who he advised found him to be a friend and he never wanted to disappoint his friends. This is one of Mike's strongest attributes: his ability to make you feel like you've known him forever.”

“Of our core group of friends...Mike was by far the smartest of the lot. He wasn't selfish about his intelligence either. He used to teach and tutor at The Princeton Review teaching MCAT classes to college age students, but also SAT classes to high school students. He was able to help share his intellect to a wide range of students and help them surpass their goals.”

He then moved to Wisconsin for medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin. According to his father, “there he flourished and seemed to absorb everything that came his way...In medical school, he met the love of his life Maggie, who was also a medical student.”

According to Jimmy, “he decided to get into obstetrics and gynecology during his rotations in medical school after he assisted with a complicated birth. Later he would describe the process as the most amazing thing he has ever experienced. Even though he had several other practices to rotate to he knew from that point forward that he wanted to be an Ob/Gyn Physician.”

Michael's wife, Maggie Torsney-Weir, is a physician now. She recalls that “he and I first met in medical school during our OB/GYN rotation. What first drew me to him was that he was always so optimistic, upbeat, and calm, even at 5 o'clock in the morning when he had been awake all night.”

Helping those less fortunate

In his senior year of medical school, Michael; and his then girlfriend Maggie, travelled with medical students from the US and Britain to Tanzania, Africa with a non-profit group called Work the World.

In Michael's own words, “I worked in a Women's Hospital where I assisted with surgery, educated patients, and did prenatal visits. The group of us heard about an orphanage that could benefit from some more education so we visited their site and did some basic education on oral hygiene



(teeth brushing, etc.). Because of the great interaction with the children and their clear need, we worked out donations from our hometowns of toys for the kids and invited them for dinner to the house we were at. We offered gifts and played with the kids for an evening.”

In the photographs, Dr. Mitri is seen with a boy named Ima, who was 4 years old at the time.



“He was living at an orphanage in the slums outside of the capital city of Tanzania, Arusha. The orphanage housed 30-40 children at a time and was looked after by 3 adults who were also in charge of keeping the orphanage funded so their interaction with the children was often limited by administrative needs. When we could see the obvious need for companionship and guidance in this group, we were very happy to spend time with the children, educating and playing games.

After the experience, I reflected on what these children go through daily and how their caregivers work selflessly to better the lot of a very impoverished demographic. Yet despite the clear poverty, lack of resources, and cramped living space, these children were happy. It was a truly wonderful and uplifting experience. “

Becoming an Ob/Gyn

While in medical school, Maggie made the decision to specialize in Family Medicine. They had to search the country to find Residency training programs in Ob/Gyn for Michael and Family Medicine for Maggie that were in the same general vicinity. This is how Michael ended up at one of Pennsylvania’s top Ob/Gyn Residency training programs at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. He graduated from this program in June, 2013.

Maggie describes Michael’s transformation into an Ob/Gyn physician: “During residency, he has never been happier than when he has gotten paged in the middle of the night for a delivery and he always has a smile on his face when he comes home. I know in medicine we doctors often say that we are there for our patients' worst days, and in OB you are also there for the best days.”



Medical School Graduation: Michael with his mom, dad and aunt

“On my worst or best days, I want Michael there. He brings a calm authority to high-intensity situations and has an easy-going approach with less complicated issues. He does not speak ill of people and he always tries to seek out the best in others, which are qualities I really admire. I myself have had several female friends who have said that they wish Michael was their doctor, as he puts people at ease, he always explains his rationale, and he wants to spend time with people.”



Wedding Photo with their minister

Michael and Maggie got married in August, 2011, right in the middle of their respective Residency programs. They probably did not have much time off for a honeymoon!

Michael’s father is very proud of his son’s choice to become an Ob/Gyn specialist. “Before residency, it seemed his confidence was fuelled by his sheer will and the love for his career and the good results he produced. But as his residency neared completion, his confidence became solid and unshakable with

his knowledge and extreme compassion for his patients and his ability to help them. He loves bringing new life to this world and cares to the extreme about the wellbeing of his patients.”

Hear from his patients

Michael’s patients really loved having him as their ob/gyn doctor. Here are some comments:

Patient Brooke H.

“It is with great confidence that I recommend to you Dr. Mitri. I first met Dr. Mitri in the Emergency Department while 30 weeks pregnant. I was having some minor concerns and after a thorough assessment of my unborn daughter and me, we were released. Dr. Mitri made my husband I feel completely safe while in his care. He treated us as if we were his only patients of the day and our concerns were his greatest priority.”

“From there we decided we would like Dr. Mitri to perform my scheduled C-section and be my attending physician for the remainder of my pregnancy. I could



With Brooke H. and baby Miranda

not have asked for a better experience. Dr. Mitri went over every possible detail and listened attentively to every question I had through the remainder of my pregnancy and postpartum care. Also, after the surgery and the arrival of our baby girl he made sure my pain was well managed, that I had what I needed to bring our little girl home and have a quick recovery. (He also did a great job on my incision - it is barely there!). Thank you Dr. Mitri!" - Brooke H. and baby Miranda

From patient Lori R. "Dear Mike: I want to thank you for being my doctor, for listening, when I needed to be heard and for being an empathetic practitioner. I am glad that you chose this specialty as us gals need someone like you as their doctor! Love, your patient Lori."

And from patient Meredith C., "I could not have had a more caring, compassionate and skilled physician than Dr. Mitri and cannot imagine having trusted my pregnancy and delivery to anyone else. He was with me every step of the way---available day or night by phone or email---and he even delivered my beautiful little girl on his day off! He is tremendously dedicated. He took all of my concerns and questions (and I had many!) seriously. He listened to what I had to say at every office visit and made me feel like we had all the time in the world. He made the whole process very special and very safe, and I just cannot say enough wonderful things about my experience. I am so thankful he brought my little one, who now brings me so much joy every day, into this world!"



With Mr. and Mrs. C and baby!

Loves to Travel

On a personal level, Maggie tells us that "his friends value his honesty and loyalty, his continuous desire to please other people, and his commitment to his friends and family. For fun, we like to travel and go hiking. Since we have been together, Michael and I have gone to Africa, South America, Mexico, Canada, and, most recently, the UK. Mostly, though, Mike likes spending time with his friends and family."

Dr. Mitri also loves to travel. After graduating from medical school, he spent 2 weeks exploring Alaska with some med school friends. He has been to the tip of South America (Tierra del Fuego) and visited a penguin reserve off the coast of Argentina. He travelled to England with Maggie and visited Stonehenge, as well as a local pub (see pictures).



Hear from his teachers during his Ob/Gyn Residency

Michael also received glowing reviews from his professors during his Ob/Gyn Residency training:

According to Dr. Pedro Roca, Assistant Professor of Ob/Gyn at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center, “The aspect that distinguishes Mike is the passion for patient care, especially the humanistic side. I have countless memories where Mike took his time to explain to patients the medical aspect in terms appropriate for the situation...In my view, Mike can turn a stressful situation into a calming one.”

From Dr. John T. Repke, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ob/Gyn at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center, “Mike is an excellent clinical Obstetrician and Gynecologist, and is quite skilled in laparoscopic surgery.” He is a “...wonderful person, gentle, compassionate and detail-oriented.”

And lastly, from Dr. Holly Thomas, Program Director and Chief, Division of Women’s Health at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center College of Medicine, “In urgent situations, Mike can keep his composure and works with decisive care. Dr. Mitri has earned the respect of his nurses and ancillary staff...”

Conclusion

All of us at Fair Oaks Women’s Health are thrilled to have Dr. Mitri join our group. As you can tell, he is kind, smart and extremely skillful and well-trained. He has a deep passion for being an ob/gyn and it shows! We know that his practice here in Pasadena will grow and thrive.

Lastly, in the words of Dr. Thomas, his Residency Program Director, “In summary, I recommend Dr. Mitri to you without reservation. I know Mike will succeed and flourish with panache.”

So do we.