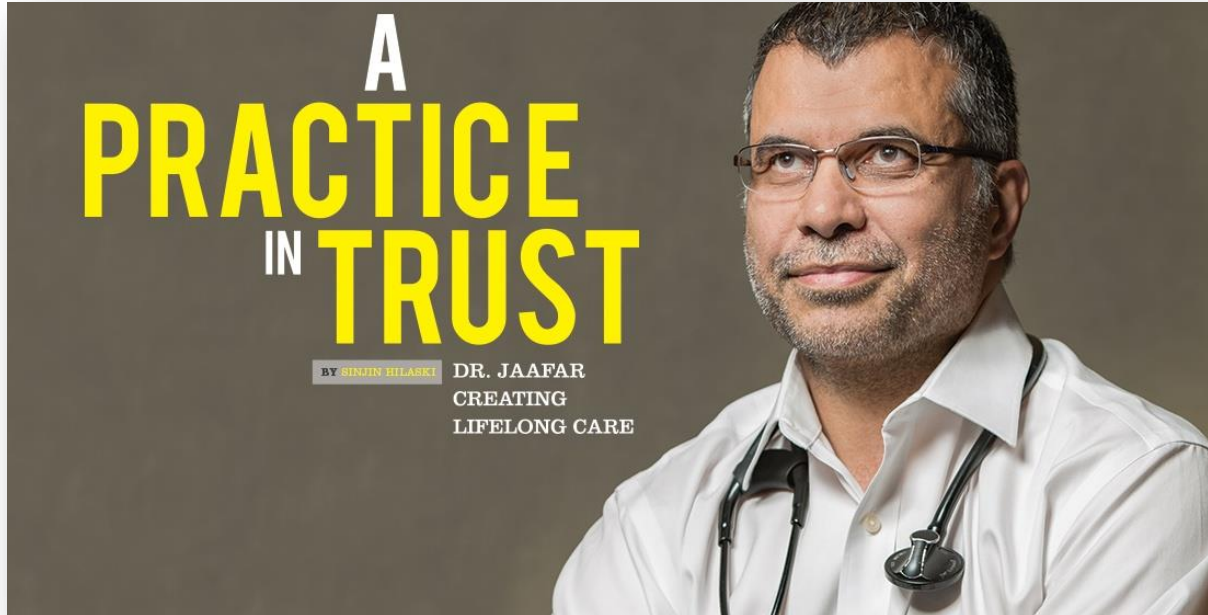




News Report Activity: Case 9

Case 9: 'A Practice In Trust: Dr. Jaafar Creates Lifelong Care' (Texas MD, 2015).



A Practice In Trust: Dr. Jaafar Creates Lifelong Care

Phones ring and pierce the steady chatter in the clinic. Laughter lets loose and smiles break across the faces of doctors, physicians' assistants and nurse practitioners, amplifying an already jovial atmosphere. It's amazing that in the bustle of a busy clinic, the constant motion of curing and caring is conducted with flawless professionalism and genuine joy.

Though after meeting Dr. Saleh Jaafar, the clinic and staff's demeanor is no longer so peculiar. Both the clinic and staff are an accurate reflection of Dr. Jaafar, his mission, and overall outlook on the role of medical professionals and the ever-evolving doctor-patient relationship.

A child of Baalbeck, Lebanon, roughly 53 miles north of Beirut, Saleh Jaafar was born in 1965. And while it is typically difficult to recall early childhood memories, he still remembers his mother's desire for him to enter the medical field. "My mom told me to be a doctor since I was 3-years-old," says Jaafar with a smile, "And I honestly never thought about anything else."

It was undoubtedly this encouragement from his mother, coupled with his life in Baalbeck, that molded Saleh into the Dr. Jaafar Texans know and love today. Rather than look toward metro areas, like Beirut or Houston, his professional fervor is rooted in practicing rural medicine, likely stemming from his formative years in Baalbeck.

Dr. Jaafar's devotion to rural medicine is founded in his extensive experience and studies across three continents in both rural and metropolitan areas. This expansive experience has shown and confirmed to Dr. Jaafar that the rural communities of Texas, and the world at large, are in need of steadfast physicians who can adapt and truly earn the trust of the communities they serve.

But this knowledge didn't simply thrust itself upon the impassioned physician. It was the by-product of his schooling and residencies.

Growing up, Dr. Jaafar attended an international boarding school in Lebanon. Luckily, his attendance at the boarding school largely insulated him from the Lebanese Civil War that began in the mid-70s. In 1983, Jaafar decided to leave Lebanon and moved to France to attend the American University of Paris.





But after a few months, he was disenchanted with Paris and moved back to Lebanon to attend the American University of Beirut, where he would major in chemistry as a pre-med student.

After his graduation, Jaafar was faced with a few options — to study medicine at the American University in Beirut or to leave and attend another medical school. Ever the adventurer, Dr. Jaafar opted to leave and attended medical school in the British West Indies. He then spent a year training in Kingston-upon-Thames, outside of London, in the United Kingdom, and he finished his last year of schooling in the U.S. Dr. Jaafar did rotations at East Tennessee State, in Johnson City, USC in Los Angeles, an internship at Texas Tech in El Paso, and he did his residency in internal medicine at UTSA, ultimately finishing in 1996.

Following his schooling and travels, Dr. Jaafar took a position as the medical director of the emergency room in Hondo, Texas. “I gained a ton of experience in that ER,” recalls Jaafar warmly. And while the trials of the ER could prove overwhelming for some, Dr. Jaafar decided to open a satellite clinic in Castroville.

Just a few years later, he took over the clinic in Bandera too. Since then Jaafar and his associates have opened additional clinics in Boerne, Stone Oak, Utopia and by this summer they’ll have a new clinic in the Medical Center, for a grand total of six locations.

Though his success was not as simple as the humble doctor makes it sound.

“Whether they’re in the hospital, rehab, in hospice, we’re still involved with their health”

When Dr. Jaafar worked in the ER, he would frequently work for 72 hours “on” with only 24 hours off. “I still opened the clinic in those 24 hours,” beams Dr. Jaafar, adding, “That’s how I met everybody in Medina County.”

Although Dr. Jaafar graduated in the top of his class, he was still drawn to practice medicine in the rural areas. Medina County’s need for more physicians compelled him to help the people. Prior to arriving, the emergency room was typically manned by doctors who volunteered their free time. But when Dr. Jaafar took over, he brought two other graduates with him to work and service the residents of Medina County.

