

DENNIS DALY, MD '83

A Tradition of Care and Commitment

When Dennis Daly, MD '83, walks into his family medicine office in Camillus, New York, it's not unusual for a patient to recognize his name.

If it's not his own longtime patient, they may be thinking of his father, Roger Daly, MD '55, who had a long career as a beloved solo practitioner in Marcellus, New York. Before him, Daly's grandfather, Dennis Daly, MD '1901, practiced in Ellenberg Depot, New York, for more than 40 years, traveling by horse and carriage to deliver babies.

Today, Dr. Daly's own son, Ian Daly, MD '11, practices alongside him, making the Dalys a remarkable four-generation Upstate family devoted to medicine and community.

"I've been in the same practice location for almost 40 years," Daly says. "I'm seeing second and third generations of patients—sometimes people whose grandparents were treated by my dad. That continuity is one of the most rewarding parts of family medicine."

Daly's deep sense of continuity extends to his long service on the Upstate Medical Alumni Foundation Board, where he has spent nearly two decades championing scholarships and student support. His involvement began unexpectedly; after donating to the Foundation for 15 consecutive years, he received an invitation to a recognition dinner.

"I hadn't been keeping track," he laughs. "But after that dinner, they started talking to me about joining the board—and they reeled me in."

Since then, Daly has served in every leadership role, including a term as president that concluded just as the COVID-19 pandemic began. Through leadership transitions and accreditation challenges, he helped keep the organization focused on its mission: supporting medical students and sustaining a strong sense of alumni camaraderie.

"The Alumni Foundation plays a critical role in helping young people who want to become physicians," Daly says. "Medical school is expensive and demanding, and scholarships can make all the difference. We want students to have the freedom to choose the specialty that inspires them, not just the one that will help them pay off their loans."

Daly is quick to remind fellow alumni that Upstate Norton College of Medicine tuition, even as part of the SUNY system, is now only slightly less than that of many private schools. "The gap between state and private tuition isn't what it used to be," he notes. "And schools with larger endowments can offer much more in scholarships. So, if we want to attract the best students, we need to help level that playing field."

For Daly, giving back to Upstate is a natural extension of the values instilled by his father and grandfather. "Medicine is about relationships, helping people when they're scared or sick, and being part of their lives



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over time," he says. "That same principle applies to supporting our students. If we can take away some of their financial stress, it helps them focus on becoming the best doctors they can be."

Although he still practices three days a week, Daly enjoys a balance that allows time with his wife, three grown children, and three granddaughters—all of whom live nearby. "I'm lucky they're all local," he says. "There's always something going on: school events, sports, babysitting. It's like being back in the days when our own kids were little."

He stays active running, biking, and skiing—his favorite sport—and reading medical journals and the occasional novel. But his commitment to Upstate remains constant.

"I think alumni support is critical for the future of medicine," Daly says. "If we can make it just a little easier for students to pursue their calling—especially in primary care—it benefits all of us."

If you are interested in learning more about the Medical Alumni Foundation Board, please contact Paul Norcross, executive director, at norcrospp@upstate.edu.