

New doctor brings fresh perspective

Dr. Gary Dawson has just opened his practice in the 1900 building on 10th Avenue

BY BORDEN BLACK
Special to Ledger-Enquirer

A new face with a fresh perspective on pain management and rehabilitation has entered the Columbus medical community. Dr. Gary Dawson, a Board-Certified Physiatrist, has just opened his practice in the 1900 building on 10th Avenue.

Many people are unaware that there is a special branch of medicine specifically dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of physical disability. Physiatrists are doctors who are certified as specialists in rehabilitation medicine by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. They treat a wide range of problems from sore shoulders to spinal cord injuries, and see patients in all age groups with problems that touch upon all the major systems in the body.

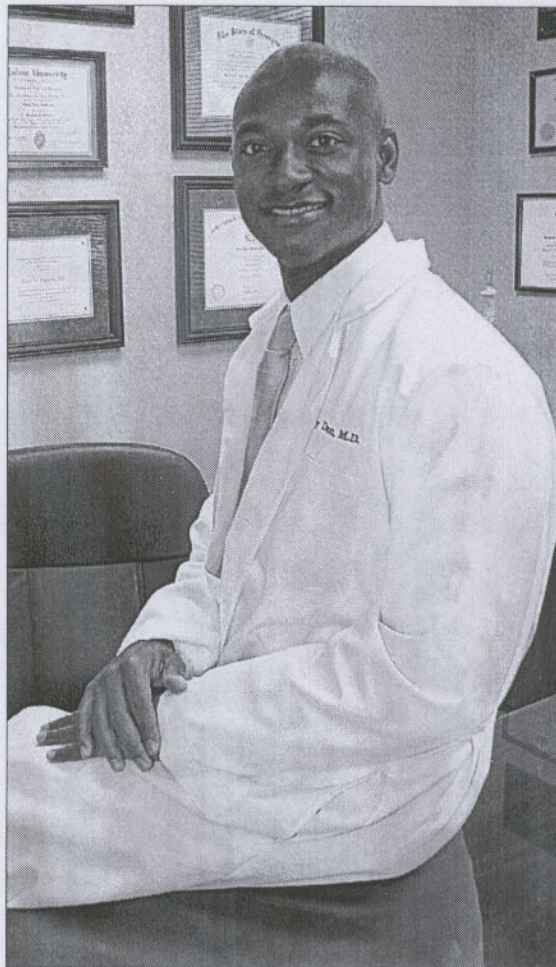
When surgery is not required, Dr. Dawson feels the best approach to back pain, neck pain, and other musculoskeletal and neurological disorders is through evaluation and a wide spectrum of treatment options. "The objective is not to give the patient a crutch, but to look at the entire patient and bring a complete and unique treatment approach," he said. His focus is on restoring his patients to functioning individuals.

Back pain is the main complaint in the majority of his patients according to Dr. Dawson. Treatment may range

from an epidural injection to spinal cord stimulation. Some procedures can be done in his office but for others he can use the Medical Center, St. Francis and Doctors Hospital.

Dr. Dawson relocated to Columbus from North Carolina because he believes there is an opportunity to help many patients in this area. He sees a gap between the need for rehabilitation and pain management and the specialists available. "Back pain is becoming a bigger problem as the population becomes older and less active. Habits are hard to change," said Dr. Dawson and added, "I want patients to be proactive rather than responding to a problem. I want to eliminate the pain, but I also want to know the underlying condition, and work on that. My first response is not to medicate but to evaluate."

It's obvious that high energy and enthusiasm will play an important part in Dr. Dawson's new practice. His doors are now open to anyone who has acute or chronic pain, or musculoskeletal problem.



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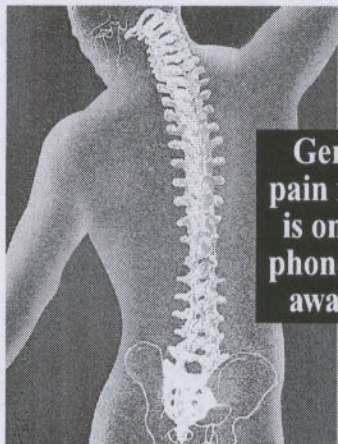
Board Certified and Fellowship trained Physiatrist
M.D., - Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans
Internship, Residency and Fellowship - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Two years practice of interventional pain management - Hickory North Carolina

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