

40 YEARS



PICTURED: DAVID M. WESTON, M.D., FACC

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PRACTICING MODERN MEDICINE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

DR. DAVID WESTON IS A MEDICAL PIONEER, BEING ONE OF THE VERY FIRST TO BRING THE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF ENDOSCOPY TO THE LANCASTER AREA IN MARCH 1971. From humble beginnings in an old row home converted to an office on Duke Street, Lancaster Gastroenterology Inc. (LGI) has grown to dominate several floors of Lancaster’s pristine Suburban Outpatient Pavilion.

Most physicians today enter the medical profession in a new town by joining a practice. Weston started from scratch, buying equipment, setting up the office and learning everything from the ground up. In those days, medical practices were almost always single-physician enterprises, not the multi-physician corporations we see today.

Modern endoscopic techniques were so new at the time that there was not a lot of instruction out there, so Weston pretty much taught himself. “I came into it through the back door, in a manner of speaking,” he said.

The early years were very trying. “Medicine doesn’t teach you about business, so it was all very new,” Weston said. “Now, we have business executives to set all that up and argue with the insurance companies. But the early days of setting up practice helped me to be more sympathetic to other people who are under stress, because I was definitely under a lot of stress. I think that helped me relate to patients, because so many GI diseases are stress-related. I founded LGI to combine modern medicine with the timeless virtue of compassion.”

From that practice of one physician — himself — Weston is now the founding partner of a staff of eight physicians, seven

	1971	2011
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	1	65
PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR	DAVID M. WESTON, M.D., FACC	MARK A. O’NEILL, M.H.S., FACHE
GEOGRAPHY COVERED	SOUTHCENTRAL PA	SOUTHCENTRAL PA
NUMBER OF OFFICES	1	1

nurse practitioners and 50 nurses, technicians and support staff. At 76, he still puts in a full day, and would not have it otherwise.

“I still enjoy doing the work,” he said. “I am still able to stand eight hours a day and not mind it. I am able to meet with patients and thoroughly enjoy talking with them. If I didn’t, I would retire.”

A devout Christian, Weston points out, however, that nowhere in the Bible does it mention anybody retiring. “I’m sure that when my mind gives out or my knees give out, it will be time,” he said. “But both my parents died at 90, and I’m still in fairly vigorous health.”

As he said on the practice’s website, Weston considers it a God-given privilege to understand and treat humans diseases. “Every day brings a new set of challenges and problems designed not only to invigorate me, but also to humble me as I realize the complexities of the human organism and the trust that has been placed in me to minister to the total person.” ★

