

FACES

Scott Grant

From the sets of Michigan-filmed movie productions to the homes of his ailing patients, Dr. Scott Grant's unique method to modern medicine takes him out of the office and into the community.

"I think I run a very traditional practice, but it's not traditional for the 21st century," he said. Grant started his practice in downtown Birmingham in 1997, but his approach is more reminiscent of a 1950's practitioner.

"I don't have an answering service. I don't like having a third person in the mix. I take calls in the evenings and on weekends," he said. "In rare instances, I'll go to people's homes," Ruth Plev, a Birmingham senior who recently turned 100-years-old, is a longtime patient who Grant sees at her residence. "If there is a child or adult who is too sick to come to the office, I will go to them."

Throughout his 15 years practicing in downtown Birmingham, Grant said he has been an on-call physician for the Townsend Hotel. From that experience, he has been retained to treat patients on 33 movie sets in Michigan.

"The movie I'm currently providing medical care for is Oz: The Great and Powerful," he said. "It's the prequel to the Wizard of Oz movie from 1939, I take care of all the cast and crew for whatever their medical needs are. If they have to stop for a director or cinematographer who is sick, it can be costly."

Throughout the course of his work, Grant has had the opportunity to meet Sigourney Weaver, George Clooney, Drew Barrymore, Neil Patrick Harris, Hugh Jackman and Richard Gere.

"My job is to keep these movies running from a medical standpoint," he said. "I've been on movie sets at three in the morning."

Through the years Grant has earned the medical trust of thousands of patients in the community, but his attraction to medicine began to actualized when he was only a teenager.

"I had a summer job at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak when I was 17 or 18," he said. "I used to work in cardiology. I was putting Holter monitors on patients and doing EKGs." Grant went on to study at Michigan State University and attended medical school at Wayne State University.

According to Grant, he has patients on nearly every street in the city of Birmingham and can often be seen walking into the practice with the office mascot, Mitzie, his rescued yellow lab.

"If I know I'll be seeing a child that day, I'll bring Mitzie. If I have a procedure to do, I leave her at home," he said. "Mitzie has a little dog bed in the office."

Whether he is working with Hollywood's elite or treating a sick child, he said his mode of operation is to maintain accessibility to patients.

"When patients call, I answer the phone. It's what medicine is all about. What good is having a doctor when you can't talk to them when you need them?"

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Photo: Laurie Tennent

