

Dr. Bernard Achieves Board Certification

Batesville, Ark — White River Health System is pleased to announce Douglas Bernard, M.D. has successfully completed the certification examination process of The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM). Board certification confers a standard of excellence in knowledge and practice to physicians who not only certify via the examination process, but who also work diligently in the maintenance of these skills during the seven-year cycle between examinations.

A graduate of Batesville High School, Bernard received his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. Bernard completed his family medicine residency at the UAMS Area Health Education Center Family Practice Residency program at the Medical Center of South Arkansas in El Dorado.

To achieve certification by the ABFM, a family physician must successfully complete a 3-year accredited Family Medicine residency program; possess a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States; and successfully complete a one-day, written examination of cognitive knowledge and problem-solving abilities. This examination covers the disciplines of the specialty including, but not limited to: adult medicine; care of newborns, infants, children, and adolescents; maternity and gynecological care; community medicine; care of the older patient; human behavior and mental health; and care of the surgical patient.

Dr. Bernard is in private practice with Dennis Davidson, M.D. at the Davidson Bernard Clinic, 2000 Harrison Street in Batesville. Dr. Bernard is a member of the Medical Staff of White River Medical Center. He is a preferred provider for most commercial insurance plans and is certified by Medicare and Medicaid. Patients may call 793-4724 for an appointment.

“We want to congratulate Dr. Bernard on this achievement.” said Gary L. Bebow, Administrator/CEO of White River Medical Center. “He is a caring physician with a wonderful rapport with his patients and is a valued member of our medical staff.”

White River Health System is a not-for-profit, multi-facility healthcare organization serving residents of North Central Arkansas. White River Medical Center (WRMC) is a 200 bed regional referral center and Stone County Medical Center (SCMC), a 25 bed critical access hospital. Other facilities are located throughout a six county area. WRHS is a major employer in the area with more than 1,400 employees.

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), one of twenty-four Member Boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties, is the second largest medical specialty board in the United States. Founded in 1969, it is a voluntary, not-for-profit, private organization whose purposes include improving the quality of medical care available to the public, establishing and maintaining standards of excellence in the specialty of Family Medicine, improving the standards of medical education for training in Family Medicine, and determining by evaluation the fitness of specialists in Family Medicine who apply for and hold certificates.