

PEDIATRICS



Dr. Richard De Vuyst

RESIDENCY

Pediatrics

Oklahoma University Medical Center—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine—
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UNDERGRADUATE

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PRACTICE

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Where did you grow up? “I grew up in a small town in southern California called Nuevo, where my parents farmed. When I was sixteen, my family moved to Pampa, Texas where they run a dairy farm. During high school, I played some baseball, but mostly enjoyed working on the family farm.”

Please tell us about your family. “My wife Nikki and I met in medical school. She is currently a fellow in adolescent medicine at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.”

What hobbies do you enjoy? “I enjoy gardening and reading about history.”

What place would you most like to visit? “Glacier National Park in Montana!”

When did you know you wanted to be a physician? “I didn't really know until college. I was majoring in history and had a required biology class. I fell in love with science after that. As I was deciding how I could make it a career, I shadowed a family doctor. The way he interacted with his patients and made a difference in our community made me want to become a physician.”

What is your most favorite medical school memory? “That would have to be meeting my wife!”

What do you like most about practicing medicine? “The feeling that I've helped people.”

What is your most memorable patient story? “During residency, I took care of a child with a rare genetic disease. He spent more time in the hospital than at home, so all the residents knew him, and he knew us. He was only five years old when I met him but he was so smart, and really funny. I once asked him what he was doing, and after that he always asked me what I was doing. Every time I saw him, he would point his finger at me and say ‘Hey, doctor! What are you doing?’ and then smile. Even when I wasn't the doctor taking care of him, I would be walking down the hallway and hear him yell ‘What are you doing?’ from the other side of the ward. For some reason, when ever I think about residency, I think about that kid asking me what I'm doing.”

What do you like most about practicing at Schneck? “The people. Everyone I met during my interview was enthusiastic and caring. They all seemed to have the patient's best interest at heart. The doctors, nurses, administrators—all put patient care first. I also loved the town of Seymour, which seems to be thriving without losing its small town appeal. During my interview, some of the local doctors took me to Kovener's Korner Ice Cream and they seemed to know almost everybody there. After that, I was sold on Schneck Medical Center.”