



## **Coach for the Staff Mentoring Program**

Donald B. Ford, MD joined Cleveland Clinic in 1999 as a Family Doctor at the Solon Family Health Center. He has served as Section Head for Family Medicine, and as Liaison to the Division of Pediatrics. He currently serves as Associate Medical Director in Solon as well as Medical Director for Access to Care, Cleveland Clinic's Contact Center.

Dr. Ford graduated from the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine with Distinction in Family Medicine, completing the Accelerated Residency Program at University Hospitals of Cleveland. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine/CWRU and has been awarded the Ed & Diane White Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching as well as the 2009 Mentorship Award.

As a researcher, Dr. Ford has had work published in the Journal of Addictive Diseases and his most recent paper has been accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine in 2008. He has presented original research at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the Ohio Association of Family Practice, and the National Scientific Assembly of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

In 2007 he became a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians (FAAFP.)

Dr. Ford is the House Doctor for the Cleveland Play House and the Great Lakes Theater Festival.

### Dr. Ford, the inside story:

Prior to his career in medicine, Dr. Ford spent over 14 years as a professional actor. His original undergraduate degree was a Bachelor of Fine Arts, major in Acting, from the State University of New York, College at Purchase, the Arts campus of the SUNY system. He performed in a variety of productions, from Children's Theater to Shakespeare, from Off-Broadway to the silver screen ("Crazy People" with Dudley Moore) to soap operas (As the World Turns). Around 1990 he felt the need for a change of career. All the spots in plumbing school were taken, so he packed up the wife, 2 kids (one more on the way) and cat in the Volvo wagon and headed back to Cleveland Heights, close to where he grew up. His Dad had been teaching at CWRU School of Medicine since 1953. Although initially aiming at Pediatrics, he rapidly found his niche in Family Medicine, the perfect discipline for those with wide interests and short attention spans.

Having completed his residency at University Hospitals he chose to go to the Dark Side (family connections abounded – his aunt by marriage was George Crile's granddaughter)

by joining Cleveland Clinic. Although starting primarily as a clinician, he rapidly found himself involved in education, research, and later administration.

He has been very dependent on the many mentors in his life, dating back from his days in show biz.

A brief list:

Fran Soeder

George Morrison

Terry Schrieber

Jack Medalie, MD

Bob Smith

Amasa Ford, MD

Scott Frank, MD

Kurt Stange. MD

Louise Acheson, MD

Rick Kratche, MD

Vance Brown, MD

Greg Collins, MD

Alan Israel, MD

Steve Zyzanski, PhD

John Hickner, MD

None of us goes it alone, as lonely as it seems sometimes. It takes a village to raise a doctor.