



Douglas Collins, MD, Is Crossroad's New Chief Medical Officer

Douglas Collins, MD, has joined Crossroad as our new Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Collins will oversee clinical performance and will supervise health care providers across our five locations. Before joining Crossroad, Dr. Collins was an adjunct associate professor of family and community medicine, providing patient care at The Christ Hospital/University of Cincinnati Family Medicine Center in Mt. Auburn. He replaces Brook Gumm, MSN, APRN, who previously served as interim CMO.

Get to Know Dr. Collins

What influenced your calling to care for underserved patients?

When I was in a church youth group at LifeSpring Christian Church, we worked in Over-the-Rhine to renovate apartments. Crossroad director of pediatrics Brook Gumm also attended LifeSpring and was a big part of that connection. Then in college, I felt God calling me to serve the underserved, whether overseas or in the urban U.S. — or both, as it has turned out. This calling was fueled by a water project in Honduras during a college spring break, my first time in a developing/low-income country, and by tutoring a boy in Uptown Chicago and working with the homeless there.

What appeals to you about the Chief Medical Officer position?

I am excited about our mission to honor Jesus by caring for the underserved, and grateful for all God has done through Crossroad in its 30-year history. Christian Community Health Fellowship had a big influence on me as early as my pre-med years, and in med school I worked with Dr. David Rahner, who was Crossroad's first medical director. I loved it so much, that following residency, I returned to work at Crossroad in 2001, during my faculty fellowship at UC, before heading to Cambodia. What inspired you to serve in Cambodia? During medical school at Wright State University, I went to rural Honduras a second time on a medical mission. The needs there were stunning and my interest in working overseas grew. My fourth year, I was able to get a scholarship and permission for an 8-week med school rotation to Mashoka Christian Hospital in rural Zimbabwe. This was 1997 and HIV/AIDS was ravaging sub-Saharan Africa, with antiretrovirals not yet available.

My wife Heidi and I married while I was in residency at U.C., one of the few family medicine programs with a global health track. We wanted to go somewhere where the people faced extreme poverty and medical care was needed and welcome—and where the love and hope we have in Jesus was not known. A team serving in Cambodia with Pioneers International seemed exactly the right fit and we served there from 2002 to 2011. I've been in many leadership roles in medicine through the years, including as a medical director at Mercy Medical Center in Cambodia. I loved being part of a like-minded team — leadership, providers, staff — working with the conviction that God loves all of us in our brokenness and wants people to know His healing love and joy. And caring for people medically is a wonderful expression of the gospel.

Any special professional or personal interests?

Professionally, areas of expertise and interest include global health, tropical medicine, and point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS). I love the broad variety of family medicine, from acute to chronic care, and integrating spiritual care and prayer into it as able. Personal interests include teaching and leading discussions at church, camping and hiking with my family, soccer (go FCC and Tottenham!), guitar and songwriting, mountain biking, watercolor and acrylic painting, and reading the Bible. I've also stayed

involved in overseas work with U.C. working in Guatemala and now, in a new partnership with missionaries there, training young doctors who run a clinic in remote Guatemala.

Do you speak any other languages?

My wife Heidi and I achieved fluency in Khmer (Cambodia) but are rusty since returning in 2011. I also have basic fluency in Spanish.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Heidi was a missionary kid in Zimbabwe and wanted to be a missionary. She is a graduate of Cincinnati Christian University with a B.A. in elementary education. Heidi homeschooled our kids in Cambodia, and a few years ago earned an associate's degree as a medical assistant. She has served with me in Guatemala, where we hope to continue to help out annually. We have been blessed with two wonderful kids and recently became empty nesters. Our son, who recently married our amazing new daughter-in-law (in nursing school), is a senior at U.C., and our daughter is a freshman at Taylor University in Indiana.