



REDEFINING THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Like father, like son. For New England Baptist Hospital's Drs. Gary Kearney and Michael Kearney, this old adage is more of a lifelong reality. Dr. Gary Kearney, the elder, is a thirty-five year veteran in the field of Urology. His son, Dr. Michael Kearney, joined him in practice several years ago. Their mutual respect for one another, respect of their physician colleagues at NEBH, ability to work together as a team, and spectrum of knowledge places them at the forefront of their specialty. And together, they help the Department of Surgery elevate the capabilities and level of expertise at New England Baptist Hospital.

One might suppose that it would be challenging for a father and son to work so closely together. For the Kearney's, however, they established a successful working relationship long before the operating room.

DEFINING SURGERY SERVICES AT NEBH

GENERAL SURGERY
GYNECOLOGY
NEUROSURGERY
OTOLARYNGOLOGY (ENT)
THORACIC SURGERY
UROLOGY
VASCULAR SURGERY



It began in the cockpit. The older Dr. Kearney was trained as a pilot in the late 1960s and served as a Navy flight surgeon. His son was always fascinated with aviation and trained to become a commercial pilot. When they began flying together recreationally about ten years ago, they found themselves having to determine who was in charge, who would manipulate the controls, and who would navigate. Today, they apply that same approach in the operating room. With a mutual respect, they establish their individual roles and responsibilities in each case so that they can take advantage of each other's skills and expertise and work together as partners.

Although they often work as a team, each Kearney brings his own expertise to the operating room. The elder Dr. Kearney did his residency and fellowship in Boston, making his way through Brigham and Women's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School. The younger Dr. Kearney trained further south in New York City at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. While just 200 miles apart, the two separate experiences provided exposure to different techniques to various urological procedures. Today, their patients benefit from this range of experience and exposure as the Kearney's continue to learn from one another. The older Dr. Kearney is the first to admit that he has incorporated some of his son's New York City methods in his own practice. "It's clear I've modified some of my surgical techniques as a result of Michael's experience at Columbia," he remarks. The younger Dr. Kearney adds, "It goes both ways. We're continually updating each other on doing things in different ways."

Another advantage of their team approach is collaboration. "If there's a complex situation, we'll get together and discuss it," explains the younger Kearney. "We'll even bring each other in for consultation right in the middle of office hours. I'll bring him in and won't tell him anything about the patient. That way, I'll get his opinion without any prejudging. It's completely unbiased."

Once a week, the two Kearney's hold joint office hours, offering their patients a clinic-like setting. "We see patients at the same time," the younger Dr. Kearney continues. "The patient benefits from getting two opinions, especially when there's a difficult situation. We view it as a team approach." The Kearney's believe this technique keeps them in check and allows the patient to benefit from the expertise of two specialists."

The Kearney's help support the Hospital's reputation as an orthopedic center of excellence. "We see a number of patients who develop urological complications during orthopedic surgery," says the older Dr. Kearney. The Kearney's also apply their urological expertise to strengthen the capabilities of the Baptist's Department of Surgery. "We have state-of-the-art equipment at the Baptist that enables us to perform advanced urological procedures, such as Ureteroscopy, which is a minimally invasive surgery for kidney stones, as well as brachytherapy, a newer technology that involves placing radioactive seeds directly into the prostate gland for the treatment of prostate cancer," explains the younger Dr. Kearney. "Being able to offer these procedures is a big advantage for the Department of Surgery and the Hospital as a whole. We're also performing other procedures here, such as radical prostatectomies and shock wave lithotripsy. We're treating advanced bladder cancer using bowel reconstruction to create a new bladder. And we're doing all this here at the Baptist. In fact," he continues, "NEBH provides state-of-the-art care in all surgical specialties, such as general surgery, ENT, gynecology, and thoracic." The older Dr. Kearney concludes, "People think this is just an orthopedic hospital. But the fact of the matter is, we offer much, much more."

With a passion for advanced technology and focus on partnership, the Kearney's define the level of quality and care found throughout all the departments at New England Baptist Hospital. They are specialists. They are partners. They are family. And they feel fortunate for the opportunity to do what they do best together at New England Baptist Hospital.

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