



NORTHERN VIRGINIA PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Amin J. Barakat, MD, Bassam A. Atiyeh, MD, Diane L. Halpin, MD, Ely G. Mouchahoir, MD,
Lisa S. Kelly, MD, Christine Z. Baldrate, MD, Susan E. Henrikson, MD, Catherine J. Bae, MD,
Hannah Woodley, PA-C, Elizabeth Nelson, CFNP, Heather McKeever, CFNP

May 6, 2020

Dear Patients and Families,

Having had the great privilege of providing care for children for 48 years, I am writing to announce my retirement from pediatric practice effective July 1, 2020.

I have loved watching precious newborns grow through all stages of childhood into responsible young adults. I have also had the joy of caring for the children of many of my former patients. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the thousands of the wonderful children, and to their parents and grandparents for entrusting me with their care, making me an important part of their lives, and helping me further my knowledge of medicine and pediatrics.

Friends and colleagues have often asked me what medical specialty I would choose if I had to start all over again. My answer was easy: it would be pediatrics. The innocence, wit, and smiles of the children have touched me and will remain with me for the rest of my life. I recall many stories that bring joy to my heart, such as when a mother asked me what was wrong with her child. I replied it was probably a virus. The seven-year-old looked at me, astonished and made a generational comment: "I didn't know people have viruses. I thought only computers do."

I am very fortunate to have worked with a talented and dedicated group of pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants at Northern Virginia Pediatric Associates. I have full confidence in each and every one of my colleagues to give my patients exceptional continuity of care. Nonetheless, should you decide to seek care with a different practice, you may request a copy of your child's medical records from our office to be mailed to you or your prospective practice.

I will dearly miss the practice of pediatrics and my wonderful colleagues and staff, but most of all, I will miss the children and their families who have so enriched my life. Going forward, I plan to enjoy my time with my family and five grandchildren and channel my professional life to medical writing and continuing to serve on Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital Leadership Board.

Please accept my thanks for all the years we have spent together and my warmest wishes to you all for health, success, and beautiful days ahead. I hope to continue seeing you outside the office, and I would love to continue to keep abreast of the news of all of my dear young friends.

Sincerely,


Amin J. Barakat, MD