

Little City Family Practice

Vergennes, VT

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The Practice

Little City Family practice received the **2003 Family Medicine Teaching Award** from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. This dynamic practice promotes a 'casual atmosphere' (i.e. no white coats!), where patients feel at home and comfortable. Little City considers itself a "community ER" as it does not turn away those without insurance, accepts walk-in appointments and receives many acutely ill patients.



The office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The staff also makes nursing home visits and house calls as needed.

The Community

Vergennes, established in 1788 is considered the "oldest city in Vermont". Its inviting main street and location near the lake offers more opportunities for dinners out and shopping than you'd think for a town so small (population 2,700). Vergennes is located 13 miles north of Middlebury, VT, which some say was named because it is located midpoint between the towns of New Haven in the north, and Salisbury to the south, which were chartered the very same day. Some say it received its name because it is located halfway between the Canadian and Massachusetts borders. Whichever version you chose, Middlebury is a beautiful quintessential New England village with its white steepled church overlooking Main Street and its vibrant citizenry. Middlebury hosts many fine restaurants and shopping, outdoor activities and community events.

Hospital Affiliation

The doctors of Little City Family Practice are affiliated with Porter Medical Center. [Porter Medical Center](#) in Middlebury is a 45-bed community hospital providing 24-

hour emergency services and comprehensive medical care. The facility has served the local communities since 1925. Special programs and services provided at the hospital include: CT scanning and MRI technology; a variety of health education programs for the entire family; courses for expectant parents; a breast health resource center; and a cardiac rehabilitation program.

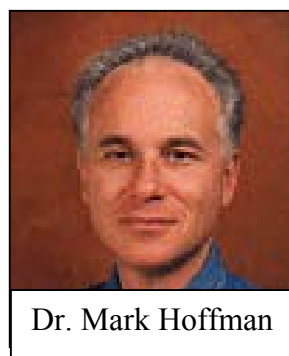


Staff

The staff consists of three physicians, two physician assistants, two registered nurses, three licensed practical nurses and 7 other clinical and administrative staff members.

Typical Day

Some days will start with rounds at Porter Medical Center but others will not as the staff feel going on rounds every day is too didactic and would prefer the students are allowed more active participation in patient care and decision-making. Students can expect to see about 20 patients each day when working directly with the doctors and 10 or so when working solo with the physician as observer. If one of the physicians discovers something unique or interesting about a patient, and the student is not present in the exam room at the time, they will likely interrupt the visit to find and bring the student in for a teaching opportunity. Days generally begin at 8:30 – 8:45 am and end at 4:30 pm with one hour for lunch (when the office closes down completely).



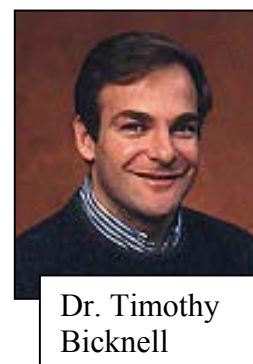
Dr. Mark Hoffman

Teaching Goals

Staff hope the students will become comfortable with their clinical decision-making. They aim to examine a different body system each day with the students and will let them begin taking histories and performing exams on their own almost immediately, with the physician's aid as needed.

Special Medical Interests

Special medical interests of the staff include minor surgeries and addiction medicine.



Dr. Timothy
Bicknell

Other Interests

Other interests of the staff include skiing, biking and travel (including Dr. Bicknell's recent volunteer work in Honduras).

Student Housing

Typically, housing is not needed for this practice site. If a student has a hardship or just wants to spend time in a rural community, housing can be arranged by calling Champlain Valley AHEC at (802) 527-1474.