

Two docs join local medical community

• Smith practicing at Big Horn Surgical, Sharp at Big Horn Mountain Medicine

By Tom Cotton

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The Sheridan medical community has grown by two.

Dr. Sara Smith began practicing Jan. 4 as a general surgeon at Big Horn Surgical, and Dr. Cindy Sharp joins Big Horn Mountain Medicine as an internal medicine physician. She began practicing here in December.

Smith is a Sheridan native who graduated from Sheridan High School in 1993. Her father, Christopher Smith, is a retired orthopaedic surgeon who practiced at Sheridan Memorial Hospital.

"I always wanted to grow up to be like my dad, and it worked out that way," Smith said.

Smith did her undergraduate work at Amherst College in Massachusetts and graduated from medical school at the University of Louisville. She did her residency at the University of Colorado and was a surgeon at Rose Medical Center and Platte Valley Medical Center in the Denver area.

"I am very glad that I left (Sheridan) for a period, because I did need to see what was out there, and it really taught me to appreciate Sheridan.," she said.

According to Smith, she is the first female general surgeon in Sheridan, and she specializes in surgery on the neck, chest and abdomen. She also performs surgery on breast cancer and hernia patients.

"In medicine in general, you never know everything. There is always more to learn," she said. "It is sort of fluid, and you learn new things every day."

Sharp comes to Sheridan after practicing in Ennis, Mont. She is board-certified in the subspecialty of nephrology (the care of kidneys).

"It (Sheridan) is a beautiful community, and it seems to be the right size for me," she said.

Sharp graduated from medical school at the University of Mississippi and served her internal medicine residency at the University of Alabama.

She was encouraged to come to Sheridan by local physician Ian Hunter.

"It was a joint effort by (Memorial Hospital) and Dr. Hunter" to increase primary care here, she said. "They were committed, and I was really inspired by that."

Sharp said she hopes to establish a practice particularly dealing with chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

In her spare time, she said she and her husband, Geoff, want to enjoy the outdoors in the Sheridan area: "We are looking forward to exploring the Big Horn Mountains."



The Sheridan Press/Michael Sullivan

Drs. Sara Smith (left) and Cindy Sharp have joined Sheridan's medical community. Smith is a general surgeon at Big Horn Surgical, and Sharp is an internal medicine physician at Big Horn Mountain Medicine.