

Get to Know Dr. Scott Ellis, OBGYN

When did you know you wanted to be a doctor? I remember the moment well. I was in fourth grade and I picked up this book called *The Human Body* in my school library. I was fascinated by the pictures and diagrams of how the body worked, and I never lost that fascination. I was not a great student until that point but something clicked when I picked up that book. I never looked back after that. I was motivated to learn everything I could.



What do you enjoy most about being an OBGYN doctor? I get to do a little bit of everything—practice medicine, perform surgery and sometimes even do a little counseling. My profession is usually very upbeat, but sometimes what my patients are facing is traumatic. I've learned more about being a doctor during the hard times rather than the good times. I feel blessed and honored to be allowed to enter into their lives during those devastating moments, and it's important to me to be there for them no matter where they're at in life.

What's happening on the home front? Currently my kids—Katherine, Matthew and Laura Leigh are gearing up to be a part of an archeological dig to unearth a dinosaur, with its skin intact! It was discovered in the western part of Moffat County. This summer, the Colorado Northwestern Community College will lead the dig and my kids get to join in and help. It is one of five in the world that actually has skin.

Can you tell us more about your kids? I am so proud of all three of my kids. Katherine, the oldest, has her own photography business and she is earning a bachelor's in international relations. Matthew earned his associate's degree at 17 and has his sites on working as a researcher with DARPA—a government defense organization. Laura Leigh is well on her way to becoming a professional ballet dancer at 16. She's taking and teaching classes at Just Dance in town.

What's something most people don't know about you? I spent a fair amount of time in the military. I joined the army early on and a medical corp as a physician after medical school. I spent time at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington. I had some great times and met some incredible people. Joining the army was a family tradition. My grandfather served in WWI, my uncle in WWII, my father in Korea, and another uncle in Vietnam. It was expected, but also something I wanted to do. It was an honor to serve.

You mentioned a ranch. Do you have horses? We have quite a few horses and we all enjoy horseback riding. Some are used for therapy, some for fun, and others just as pets. My wife Connie Sue is active with Freedom Hooves, a non-profit that provides equine therapy to children, adults and veterans, so we often have people congregating at the ranch. Rehab services at TMH also use the ranch for therapies. Connie Sue and I take horses on an annual pack trip into the Flat Tops Wilderness every summer. It's great to disappear for a while and get away from electronic things that beep.

