

Get to Know Patrick Johnston, DO

Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon; Fellowship
Trained in Hand and Elbow Orthopaedic Surgery



What do you enjoy about being an orthopaedic surgeon?

As a surgeon, patients come to you when they need something fixed and it's a window into their world that they are inviting me into. It's humbling to have people trust you enough to operate on them and fix a part of their body when they are in a vulnerable moment.

It's important for me to have that relationship with people, knowing that I can help and make a difference in people's lives.

Who or what inspired you to become an orthopedic surgeon?

There are a lot of people who have inspired me along the way. The first was Eric Heiden, who is the best speedskater of all time and currently a well-respected orthopaedic surgeon in Utah. I spent some time with him and realized this was what I wanted to do with my life. Eric enjoyed his work and patients were excited for him to take care of them, because he was a skilled surgeon, they trusted him and knew he was going to do a good job.

What is one of your career highlights?

One of the most rewarding achievements of my career was when I was awarded the Arnold P. Gold Award for Humanism and Excellence in the Teaching of Medicine, nominated by the medical students I had taught. This honor acknowledges teaching, medicine, and humanism, all of which are integral to our work. Having



someone highlight this aspect of my work was incredibly gratifying. It's what I continue to strive for every day.

What is something unique you bring to MRH?

The knowledge, experience and skill in hand, wrist, elbow and nerve care. I try to bring it with a sense of humor to make people feel comfortable.

What are your hobbies outside of work?

I enjoy cycling, hiking, and running, as well as hunting and fishing. Spending quality time with my wife, kids, and extended family—who mostly reside in Steamboat. Additionally, I like cooking.

What is a philosophy you live by?

Be kind and help others.

If you weren't in the medical field, what would you be doing?

Given my enjoyment of medicine, I would likely continue in that field, teaching anatomy, helping others, or pursuing a career related to food.



Professional and Academic Appointments:

- Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine
- American Society for Surgery of the Hand
- American Association of Hand Surgeons
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- Wilderness Medical Society
- Yampa Valley Autism Program



Partnering to provide world-class
orthopaedics locally

