

Drs. Scott Van Appledorn and Adam Ball recently opened a urology practice in Fort Pierce.



Staff photo by Jay Meisel

Doctors open urology practice

By JAY MEISEL

Staff writer

FORT PIERCE — Drs. Scott Van Appledorn and Adam J. Ball, partners in Gulfstream Urology Associates PA, say their family backgrounds influenced their decision to become physicians.

In Dr. Van Appledorn's case, that his father was a physician didn't automatically result in him becoming a doctor.

While he noted, "My father was a doctor who I always looked up and he always enjoyed what he did," he added that he explored other alternative professions.

"I came to a sort of epiphany one day" and that was to be a doctor, he said.

Dr. Ball said he wanted to be a physician since he was a child, noting that his father worked as a physical therapist.

The doctors met during their residency training at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami six years ago. Dr. Van Appledorn, who is from Michigan and Dr. Ball, a Florida native from Boca Raton, decided to join together and form a practice.

The decision to locate their practice in Fort Pierce resulted from

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute embracing robotic surgery, a less invasive surgery that can be used for removal of the prostate. Doctors say surgery involves smaller incisions, resulting in a potential for a shorter hospital stays, less pain, less risk of infection, less blood loss and transfusions and faster recovery.

Lawnwood, which recently acquired the da Vinci Robotic Surgery System, is the only hospital on the Treasure Coast that offers the surgery.

Dr. Appledorn, who completed a fellowship at the Australian Institute of Robotic Surgery, said he wanted to become a urologist, in part, because it's a specialty where doctors can practice medicine and perform surgery.

And it provides a lot of opportunity to help people, he said.

Dr. Ball said his choice of a specialty was influenced as a result of his father having prostate cancer.

At the time, Dr. Ball said, robotic surgery wasn't available. If it had been, he said, his father "would have likely investigated it."

He said he believes it would have made the

ordeal easier for his father.

Since the practice opened about three months ago, the doctors have performed two robotic surgeries and the patients were pleased with the outcome, Dr. Ball said. Others are scheduled.

The doctors deal with many other medical problems. Their practice deals with any problems affecting the male reproductive system, including the kidneys, bladder, prostate, penis and testicles.

Besides prostate surgery, two of the more common problems they see are kidney stones and erectile dysfunction.

"We have met some very wonderful people," said Dr. Van Appledorn. "Our patients have been enjoyable to work with and treat."

Gulfstream Urology Associates PA is accepting new patients. It's located at 2100 Nebraska Avenue, Suit 211, Fort Pierce. The telephone number is (772) 465-2020.

The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The doctors are on call 24 hours a day for emergencies.

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