



**ROGER TOBIAS MD**  
LYONS MEDICAL CENTER

**Medical School/schools:**  
• University of Kansas – First half in Kansas City, second half in Wichita  
**Internship:**  
• St. Francis Hospital, Wichita. General Surgery for one year.  
• Flight surgeon three years, USAF at Clark AB, Philippines.  
**Residency:**  
• St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Wichita. Family practice for two years; pediatrics six months with emphasis of diabetes. With surgical training, Dr. Tobias entered practice prepared in full obstetrics. Family practice was his choice over surgery.  
**Specialty:**

In addition to the above, achieved additional certification in geriatric medicine, ceasing obstetrics after 1995.

*Why did you choose to practice in a smaller rural community as opposed to a bigger urban hospital? What sets them apart?*

“I grew up in a small town. I had lived in the city and traveled the world. My wife was from a rural community in Idaho and we felt more comfortable raising our family in such a locale. The decision had to do with living close to at least one grandparent. (If there were any exception, it would have been a family practice in Lawrence.)

*What do you like most about your job?*

“In a smaller community hospital, a family practice specialist is allowed to use his/her skills more fully than where there is a limited specialist for every body part. The ability to provide total care, without having to turn the patient over to a “specialist” was unique then and even more so today. I appreciate the family work environment: the ability to maintain contact with the practice without a lot of commuting; the collegial and mutual relationships with the other physicians on staff; and the citizens of a community who are effusive in their appreciation for our efforts, especially in the office and inpatient setting.

The small town practice has helped to preserve our nuclear family.”

Dr. Tobias is married to Debbie. They have three children, Adrienne, Adam and Aaron; four granddaughters; and two grandsons.



**STACY DASHIELL MD**  
STERLING MEDICAL CENTER

**Medical School/schools:**  
• Sterling College – undergraduate studies  
• University of Kansas School of Medicine - MD  
**Specialty:**  
Family Medicine with emphasis in obstetrics. Enjoys women’s and children’s health.  
**Residency:**  
Research Family Medicine, Kansas City, MO., with an emphasis in family medicine and obstetrical focus.

*Why did you choose to practice in a smaller rural community as opposed to a bigger urban hospital? What sets them apart?*

“I enjoy getting to know my patients and their families both in and out of the office. Rural medicine allows me to deliver a baby and then watch them grow up. It allows me to care for patients through all stages of life, even the final stages. Rural family medicine can be very demanding and require a lot of unpredictable hours to work, but being able to work part time has allowed me to find a good balance between my career and my family.

*What do you like most about your job?*

“My job is both challenging and rewarding. Every day brings something different from new babies to emergency room work, to office visits. The medicine is challenging at times but the relationships developed are so very rewarding.”

Dr. Dashiell is married to Christian, chaplain at Sterling College. They have three children, Elliana, age six, Zachary, age three, and Hana, age one.



**JAMES DECKER DO**  
STERLING MEDICAL CENTER

**Medical School/schools:**  
• Kansas University undergraduate studies – B.A in Chemistry (1985)  
**Internship:**  
• D.D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Ft. Gordon, Georgia (completed in 1992)  
**Specialty:**  
• Family practice with emphasis in obstetrics and rural medicine  
**Residency:**  
• Completed family practice residency at D.D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in 1994.

*Why did you choose to practice in a smaller rural community as opposed to a bigger urban hospital? What sets them apart?*

“My wife and I prefer to live in and raise our family in a small town setting. Sterling, Kansas is our ideal small town. It’s rewarding to be able to handle most of the medical problems presented to me in a rural family practice. In the city, family practitioners are pressured to refer many more cases to specialists.”

*What do you like most about your job?*

“Many of the families I serve treat me as one of the family. I enjoy the close bond that is formed when caring for entire families in a small town setting.”

Dr. Decker is married to his high school sweetheart, Willene. They have four children, David, age twenty-one, Ben, age nineteen, Jacob, age fifteen, and Sam, age thirteen.



**KRISTINA DARNAUER MD**  
STERLING MEDICAL CENTER

**Medical School/schools:**  
• Oral Roberts University B.A in Pastoral Care  
• University of Kansas School of Medicine – M.D.  
**Specialty:**  
• Family Practice with an emphasis in obstetrics  
**Residency:**  
• Research Family Medicine with OB emphasis

*What sets a small rural community medical clinic apart from a bigger urban hospital? Why did you choose Sterling?*

“I grew up in a small town so rural medicine was all I knew. I love the variety of rural medicine – delivering babies, visiting nursing homes and treating patients in the ER. I also like the slower pace of rural life. It’s good for raising my family - and for my patients’ families!”

*What do you like most about your job?*

“I enjoy relationships I can build with my patients that extend beyond the office. I feel that I can provide better care to my patients when I know them in the community. I know their family and where they work and how those aspects affect their health. I really love delivering babies and caring for pregnant women and then for their children. I can’t think of anything more exciting than a healthy, happy birth!”

Dr. Darnauer’s husband, Jeff, is youth pastor at First United Methodist Church in Sterling. They have two children, Jace, age three, and Caleb, age one.

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