

11/8/2024

Dear Valued Patients of Sylacauga OBGYN and Members of the Sylacauga Community,

I have been made aware of rumors circulating on Facebook and other social media sites regarding the future of Sylacauga OBGYN. I had hoped to write a letter to all of our patients with a comprehensive plan as to the future of this practice, but unfortunately, I feel my hand has been forced to respond to these rumors before I am completely ready to do so.

As many of you now are aware, both Dr. McInnis and Dr. Surles will move their practices to Lee OBGYN in Auburn/Opelika and will have their last day at Sylacauga OBGYN on 1/3/2025. Know that I am **both saddened and supportive** of their decisions and reasons for doing so. While I cannot and will not speak for them, their reasons for leaving the Sylacauga community are not lost on me, and I respect them for doing what is best for themselves, their families and for their medical careers.

That being said, <u>*I plan to continue to practice BOTH gynecology AND obstetrics</u></u>. When my wife and I remodeled our building and purchased office space in Sylacauga in 2013-2014, we were expressing–both symbolically and tangibly– a financial, emotional and good-faith intention to practice in Sylacauga for the duration of our careers. This has been far from easy, but we have dedicated our most productive years to practicing here, and I intend to continue to do so.</u>*

To that end, recruiting and retaining physicians to a smaller community is not an easy feat. The glitz and glamor of the latest technology and promise of lucrative financial support from bigger hospitals will always be a challenge to overcome for the more rural practices. I am not at liberty to release all the details of the future of Sylacauga OBGYN at this time, but rest assured, my intention is to continue to provide gynecologic and obstetrical services to this community.

Change and uncertainty are always both hard and frightening. Perhaps the easiest path would simply have been to sell our building and walk away from the practices. I promise you, however, that I have worked tirelessly to find a plan that I think is in the best interests of my patients, my staff, and my family. I truly believe that there are only better things yet to come. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your continued trust and support.

#sylacaugaOBGYNstrong

Sincerely,

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Dr. Jonathan Rehberg Owner, Sylacauga OBGYN