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How did you get interested in medicine? how did you get interested in Pediatrics and then how did you get interested in Urgent Care?

Dr. Kirsten Ahrens: I am one of the crazy people that always knew that I would be a doctor. I always wanted to be a doctor. I initially thought maybe I would do OB/GYN and then my focus changed to Pediatrics in medical school. I thought that I would sub-specialize, actually, and do a fellowship in either peds emergency medicine, hem-onc or critical care. But I, after residency, decided that I would join a practice initially for a while and then I realized I couldn't do that. So then I approached our emergency room director and asked him if I can have a job in the emergency room and he said yes. So as a clinical physician, I joined there and then I had some family issues and I couldn't do a fellowship, due to some changes in my family: I got divorced; I had two small kids. So I, frankly, couldn't afford to do a fellowship. So I stayed on as clinical staff. And I always told myself when I start saying goodbye to parents and "follow up with your pediatrician" and getting upset about the loss of that relationship, that I would go into primary care. And I have never had that experience. So every time I say, "Goodbye, follow up with your doctor" I have never been sad. So I've stayed in Urgent Care since then and because of that I like the procedures; I like the acuity I like the fast-paced setting and I like the changing patients all the time and that kind of a setting for for medicine, so that's why I've stayed.

Tell me a little bit about your background with SPUC. How did you get involved?

Dr. Ahrens: As you all know, Peg was at Cincinnati Children's and so she introduced me to it and she's been kind of instrumental and getting me involved in it and you know keeping me abreast of what's happening and helping me to join committees or letting me know about opportunities so it was mostly through Peg that I got involved. But I've really enjoyed the outreach portion of it and the ability to come together as a group and really figure out ways to reach out to

physicians out there and get information and CME and figure out ways to do benchmarking and things like that, because it's such a new field.

On the board, if you're chosen for the board, do you have any special kinds of projects you'd like to do? Any kind of emphasis that you'e like to see?

Dr. Ahrens: I'd like to see a lot more CME availability, through the website or through webinars or things like that. I think the stuff that Milwaukee is doing is really fascinating with their webinars and offering CME. So I think that offering CME frequently about interesting things coming up or just even just interesting information like Carolyn is doing posting things about vaccines or things like that on there. Also having more information that's available to be printed for people so that they could print out, like you know, questions about vaccines to give to families, things like that so that we kind of all have the same verbiage around topics that are a little more controversial or topics that we all have difficulty discussing or explaining to families would be great.