

Kevin David Smith, MD, CM, FRCSC

Kevin Smith is an accomplished ophthalmic surgeon residing in Kanata, Ont. He was born and raised in Pointe Claire, Que., the middle of five children. His childhood revolved around school, sports and playing the euphonium for the Salvation Army band. His passion for athletics continued well into his university years at McGill University, Montreal, during which he obtained a BSc in mathematics and a Diploma in management. In 1975 he became quarterback and captain of the McGill Redmen football team and was the top passer in his division. In 1979, during a semifinal match, despite being sidelined with an injured throwing arm, he was thrust back into the game in the final minutes and completed the winning touchdown pass. Similar feats of athletic prowess attracted invitations for tryouts with the National Football League's New York Giants and the New York Jets.

Kevin met his wife, Kathy, at the age of 18. (She just happened to be a cheerleader.) Kevin began medical school at McGill in 1981. He continued to be active in intramural sports as well as the McGill Medicine Band. To help finance medical school, Kevin joined the army. While most of his colleagues were struggling with medical school and internship, Kevin and Kathy managed to have four children! From 1986 to 1988 Kevin worked in Portage, Man., as an emergency physician and as base surgeon for the Department of National Defence. During these years he saw much of Canada and learned how to fly Tudor Jets and Muskateers and also flew in Jet Rangers.

Perhaps the resemblance of the longitudinal profile of a football to the shape of the anterior segment subconsciously attracted Kevin to grasp the specialty of ophthalmology. As a medical student he recalls watching Dr. Jack Wise perform a strabismus operation and becoming "hooked on the clean and intricate aspects of ophthalmic surgery." In 1988 he began his ophthalmology career at the University of Western Ontario, London. He was awarded the 1989 Upjohn Resident Award for one of his projects. In 1991 he garnered the first prize in the Ophthalmic Photography contest. He then returned to McGill for a year of oculoplastics fellowship, during which he won the McGill Prize for best paper by a fellow. He wrote seven articles during his



Dr. Kevin Smith enjoying his favourite journal!

training. One of his research interests was the relation between hypothyroidism and secondary open-angle glaucoma.

In 1992 Kevin established a private practice in Ottawa and continued his work with the Department of National Defence. In 1996 he was appointed Chief of Ophthalmology for the Canadian Armed Forces. During this time he travelled to Romania to meet with European military ophthalmologists.


At present Kevin has a busy cataract and oculoplastics practice averaging 750 procedures per year. He somehow finds time to also do ophthalmology outreach programs in Cape Breton and to work for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. All the while he juggles family commitments with his four teenaged children (Randy, Greg, Trevor and Victoria). He is especially busy in the winter as ophthalmologist for the National Hockey League's Ottawa Senators and as an executive member of Kanata Minor Hockey. He keeps fit by playing pond hockey and basketball.

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When not engaged in sports, he finds time for chess, philately and collecting Canadian art. Among his favourite pieces is the folk art of Nova Scotian Joe Norris.

When family and practice commitments become quieter, Kevin has aspirations for working in the Third World and pursuing several ophthalmology research ideas.

Kevin's perseverance has allowed him to excel in several arenas of life. He has partaken of a tremendously broad range of experiences unavailable to most ophthalmologists. We wish him continued success as he quarterback his large family and continues to gain yardage on our ophthalmology gridiron. 

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