



To the Patients and Friends of Marchand and Associates, Greetings,

I am sitting down on this summer day to write to each one of you. I have been promising for years that as soon as I knew of a change in our office I would notify you all.

First, I am not going to retire.

However, I have had a yearning to spend some time during my career working in Australia or New Zealand. I have much admiration for the people, natural beauty, and fascinating cultures of both countries. After fits and starts, always with my eye on the prize of keeping our office family together, and offering patients a smaller, more relationship-oriented medical home, I think I have put it all together. On October 6th, I am due to start a sabbatical for 11 months, traveling to New Zealand to join 4 other primary care doctors in Ashburton, south of Christchurch.

To make all this happen, I needed to find a doctor to work in my place: I needed someone to look after our patients, support Cheryl and the staff (who have always been here for me), and who shares my commitment to the ethical and moral practice of medicine. Dr Nathan Graves, a Family Practice physician with 10 years' experience in outpatient care, has signed on to step into my shoes, and will be starting to see some patients in August. He will begin work full time in September, allowing me some time to travel to see my family who are scattered across the U.S. Dr Graves is a smart, kind man, and has my complete confidence.

I hope that the effort I have put into preparing the office for my absence will be rewarded by your continuation with the staff that has cared for you for so long. Cheryl, Dr Rasor, Lisa, Chong Hui, Michelle, Norma, Melissa, Gyna, Tina, Alex and now Dr Graves all deserve a chance to be your team. I will still be in touch with the office, will maintain my Texas medical license and our electronic medical record, allowing me the option of returning next year.

I will not attempt to mislead you. At the end of my sabbatical on the other end of the world, I will have to assess my future yet again. Currently, I hope to find the office still thriving, and can come back to work, albeit in a part-time role. This is a culmination of 2 years of planning; investigating and chance to make a dream of mine come true.

I would like to ask for your continued support of our practice while I am gone. The relationships I have with you and my staff are my treasure, my life's accomplishment and I am as proud of all this as I am of my own family. I believe our little office is something special, and I do not want it to end. I am trying to minimize the impact of the inevitable change that is life.

Stay well, show kindness, give grace, wear your mask, and hopefully I will see you again next summer.

With gratitude and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Greg Marchand MD".

Greg Marchand, MD

August 1, 2020