

Napa Valley Register

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10 Questions

Jason T. Huffman, M.D.
of Napa Valley Orthopaedic Medical Group

Each Wednesday, the Napa Valley Register's Business Focus asks "10 Questions" of a local entrepreneur or businessperson. Readers are welcome to suggest business people to be profiled.

By JENNIFER HUFFMAN
Register Business Writer

Jason Huffman said he likes working in medicine because it combines human interaction with scientific thinking. As a partner at the Napa Valley Orthopaedic Medical Group, it's no surprise Huffman most enjoys the field of orthopaedics.

"It's very mechanical — more mechanical than any other type of medicine," said Huffman. "We're dealing with levers, screws, nuts and bolts."

As a spine surgeon, the most common problems Huffman works on is disc herniation.

"That's a surgery where someone can be in immense nerve pain and they wake up from surgery and that nerve pain is gone. That's one of the most rewarding surgeries we do."

"It's really nice when someone comes in and says, 'My life is so much different now.'"

Which three people would you most like to have dinner with?

My grandfather, James Gasser, who died before I was born, Obama to discuss health care reform and Shakespeare.

What job would you like to try/not try?

Try: Lego set designer.

Not try: Personal assistant to a movie star.

What was your first job?

Flipping burgers at Burger King, Coronado Island.

What's on your to-do list?

Prepare for the next Cub Scout den meeting. I'm the Wolf den master in Pack 151.

Who do you most admire in the business world?

Costco CEO Jim Sinegal.

What is one thing you hope to accomplish in your lifetime that you haven't yet?

See my children grow into happy, healthy adults, and take my family to see the Olympics.



Orthopedic surgeon Jason Huffman and his colleagues at the Napa Valley Orthopaedic Medical Group recently moved into new offices on Claremont Way that offer a little more room for devices like a digital fluoroscope, or live x-ray machine. *Jorgen Gulliksen/Register*

If you could change one thing about your business, what would it be?

The omnipresent concern about medical liability.

What's something people might be surprised to know about you?

I really enjoy cooking. I gave serious thought to going to culinary school. Cooking is an interesting merge of science and working with people.

What was your childhood ambition?

To be a professional downhill skier.

What other business person(s) would you like to see featured in "10 Questions?"

Mick Gagetta, Gagetta Construction.
Tony Ganze, Ganze & Company.
Debra Phairas, Practice & Liability Consultants, LLC.
Bruce McLean, AirSF Flight Services.

What's the worst job you ever had?

Installing fiberglass insulation in Orange County.

How did you get into this business?

In medical school, I enjoyed surgery and the mechanical nature of orthopaedics, and, ultimately, I was captivated by spine disorders and treatment.

What is the biggest challenge your business has faced?

Finding like-minded partners intent upon establishing a comprehensive orthopaedic center.

What's your favorite gift to give?

Interesting flower arrangements and travel.

What's the most significant project you've been involved with in your career?

Building our new orthopaedic center here in Napa.

If you could be anywhere right now, where would you be?

Sitting on a tropical island with my family.

What is your favorite charity?

Save the Children.

What's one thing Napa could do to help local business?

Simplify the process of commercial property development (planning and construction) so small business owners can grow their businesses in Napa, and not relocate to a more hospitable business location.

I can't live without: A good book. I mostly read science fiction.

To suggest a candidate for 10 Questions, visit the Virtual Newsroom at www.napavalleyregister.com and click on 10 Questions.

Dr. Huffman and Register staff writer Jennifer Huffman are not related.