## PRIMARY CARE FOR ADULTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME New Patients Being Accepted Starting April 2022

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## LETTER FROM THE DOCTOR

Navigating our healthcare system is frustrating. Patients need not only sound medical advice, but equally important a caring advocate to help in making the myriad of decisions that are affected by their health. As a practicing internal medicine physician, and mother of a child with Down Syndrome (DS), I have seen first-hand how critical this advocacy is for patients with complex needs or special circumstances. This unique perspective has led me to open a new clinic in Dallas focusing on primary care for adults with DS.

There are very few resources for specialty care of this population. Through my work with the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas I've learned that there is a need – and through my work with the Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group (DSMIG), I've learned that there are very few physicians positioned to meet that need. The handful of experts currently in practice, are simply passionate people who have dedicated themselves to this population. And while I will not yet hold myself out as an expert in DS, I feel my DSMIG-based self-study and genuine interest will allow me to address the unique medical needs of this community in an evidence-based way. And by committing to care solely for this population, allowing patients and their caregivers time to be heard, I'm confident in our ability to deliver a more comprehensive primary care offering.

Tara Goodwin, DO

## ABOUT DR. GOODWIN

Tara Goodwin, DO grew up in El Paso, Texas before completing her undergraduate studies at Texas Women's University. She received her medical degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth and completed her residency training at Methodist Hospital of Dallas. She has been board certified in Internal Medicine since 2004. Dr. Goodwin practiced hospital medicine at Baylor University Medical Center from 2004 to 2010 before working in the Emergency Room observation unit at Medical City Dallas. Since 2012 she has been working in the senior care space focusing on elderly patients, including many with dementia.

She and her husband, a fellow physician, have three wonderful children including a son with Down Syndrome. As a mother of a child with Down Syndrome she remains passionate about the quality of medical care for this community. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and is currently serving on the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee for the Highland Park Independent School District. She is a member of the Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group as well as the Global Down Syndrome Foundation.