

Rajih Haddawi, MD
Biography and Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Rajih Haddawi retired from the practice of orthopedic surgery after a 35-year career to spend his early days of retirement solving a long-standing community problem. The problem: Access to Healthcare. Over 16,000 uninsured or underinsured patients in Monroe and Owen counties were unable to access quality and coordinated medical, pharmaceutical, dental and psychological care. The answer that Dr. Haddawi envisioned and led into existence is Volunteers in Medicine of Monroe County, a free, volunteer-operated medical clinic for adults without health insurance or the economic means to pay for health care. Using the model of Hilton Head, South Carolina, where a group of retired medical professionals established the first VIM clinic, Dr. Haddawi inspired the collaboration of the medical community, the Bloomington Hospital (now IU Health-Bloomington Hospital) and the community at large to bring this dream to reality. VIM of Monroe County opened its doors in April of 2007 and celebrated the five years of success in 2012 thanks in large part to the commitment and dedication of Dr. Haddawi.

Dr. Haddawi was born in a small village in southern Iraq, the youngest of nine children. His medical school education began at the age of 17 with a 6-year program, taught in English, at the University of Baghdad Medical College, Iraq. After passing the ECFMG exam as a senior, he was given the opportunity to apply for an internship and residency program in the U.S. He began his rotating internship and general surgery residency at Prince George Hospital, University of Maryland, and completed his training in orthopedics at the University of Tennessee. He then completed a fellowship in hand surgery at Kleinert/Kutz, University of Louisville. Dr. Haddawi and his wife, Darlene, decided to move to Bloomington in 1972 drawn by fact that the community offered access to cultural, educational and athletic event opportunities while also being a great town to raise their family.

Dr. Haddawi's medical career in Bloomington was quite distinguished. Dr. Haddawi was the first hand surgeon in Monroe County and also was the first to perform a number of cutting-edge surgeries for that time including arthroscopic knee surgery and joint replacement surgery of the knee, hip and hand. In addition, he had the opportunity to do major arm and hand reconstruction surgeries for work-related injuries from the industrial and agricultural sector of the community. During that time, he routinely served many uninsured or underinsured patients free of charge. Even students from the IU School of Music

(now the IU Jacob School of Music) benefitted from Dr. Haddawi's treatment of stress related arm and hand injuries brought on by lengthy practice sessions, and most were able to continue their careers in music.

When Dr. Haddawi retired from his practice in 2005, he was able to focus on the issue that troubled him during his practice years. Mainly, even though many of his uninsured patients were treated for their orthopedic problems, their recovery was impacted by their overall poor health and inability to access comprehensive medical care. The wheels were then put in motion for what was to become the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic.

Dr. Haddawi's passion for this cause brought together many physicians and lay volunteers for the clinic while garnering the financial support of Cook Group of Bloomington and the essential assistance of Bloomington Hospital which pledged access to a facility, several full-time staff, free ancillary testing and ongoing fundraising from the Bloomington Hospital Foundation. Once the doors were open, Dr. Haddawi himself worked many hours as a physician volunteer and as the Chairman of the Board of the Volunteers in Medicine.

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Education and Accreditation

- MD Degree, University of Baghdad Medical College, Iraq
- Rotating Internship and General Surgery Residency, University of Maryland
- Orthopedic Surgery Training, University of Tennessee
- Hand Surgery Fellowship, University of Louisville
- Board Certified and past Fellow of the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons

Professional Experience

- 1972-2005 Practiced Orthopedics and Hand Surgery in Bloomington, IN
- 1972-2005 Past member of the Bloomington Hospital Medical Staff
- 1992-2005 Past member of the Southern Indiana Surgery Center Medical Staff
- Past Member of the Indiana Orthopedic Society
- Retired Member of the Indiana State Medical Association
- Past President of the Monroe Owen County Medical Society

Organizational Service

- President of the Emeritus Board of Directors for the Society of Friends of Music at IU
- Past President of the Society of the Friends of Music at IU
- Past Member of the International Committee, IU Foundation
- Past Member of the Board of Directors, Bloomington Hospital Foundation
- Past Member of the Board of Directors of Shalom Center for the Homeless, Bloomington, IN
- Member of Rotary Club, Bloomington, IN
- Past Chair and Current Member of the Board of Directors of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic
- Physician Volunteer – Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Awards, Honors and Philanthropy

- 2006 Herald Times Man of the Year, Bloomington, IN
- The Governor's Award for Volunteer Service from Governor Mitch Daniels
- Paul Harris Medallion Award from Rotary International
- 2007 Community Volunteer Award from the City of Bloomington
- Scholarships Sponsored at Indiana University:

- Near Eastern Studies and Languages
- Jacobs School of Music

Family:

- Married for 44 years to Darlene Haddawi
 - Graduate of Indiana University
 - 6 year member of the Bloomington Hospital Board of Directors
 - Past President of the Local Council of Women
 - Past President of Monroe Owen County Medical Alliance
 - Past President of the Indiana State Medical Association Alliance
- Jameila Haddawi is his daughter
 - Graduate of Smith College and Tulane Medical School
 - Currently a pediatrician with the Harvard Medical Multispecialty group in Newton, Massachusetts.
 - Two children – Nayla and Nouri
 - Husband – Firas Raouf, a partner in Overview Investments in Boston, MA
- Malek Haddawi
 - Graduate of Denison University
 - Former sales representative for Cook Medical
 - Participant in start-up of Volunteers in Medicine
 - Current volunteer at the VIM clinic