

I LIKE **Hard Puzzles**

Why am I so motivated to change health care? I live in—and love—South Dakota, where the patient any doctor treats could be my cousin! My connection to the people here constantly reminds me why my colleagues and I went into medicine in the first place. As a young doctor, it didn't take me long to realize the system is broken when the first considerations are always volume and speed. The question shouldn't be "How many patients can be seen in a day?" We ought to ask, "How can we provide the best care for every patient?"

There's the puzzle. I've heard it said that innovation is what you get when stress finally meets creativity. Information—gathered and shared by combining the best technology with one-to-one communication—is my answer to reducing physician stress and providing top-quality care. Would you go to a hairdresser with a bad haircut? A mechanic whose personal vehicle is up on blocks? Then why rely on a physician too rushed to eat right, exercise, or get enough sleep?

Once I realized the accepted model wasn't right for me, the next step was establishing a mobile clinic and acquiring the resources to implement an electronic medical record system. I started doing home visits, seeing patients in jail for free, participating in a medical mission to Haiti—whatever would help me reconnect with the inspiration that first led me to medicine. Along the way, I learned to approach patient care differently, which doesn't make me more capable than any of my colleagues. It's just that I like to solve hard puzzles.

Dr. Annette Bosworth

