

# Natchitoches DOCTOR STAYS TRUE TO AFRICAN ROOTS

**D**r. Moshood Olatinwo, medical director and CEO of Summit OB/GYN of Natchitoches, knew from an early age that he wanted to be a doctor. Where he is from, he says, “Very early, they tell you what you’re going to do when you’re smart.” Most gifted kids in Nigeria pursue careers as doctors, architects, lawyers and engineers, according to Olatinwo, who added, “I just liked the doctors because they were very well respected.”

Known affectionately in Natchitoches as “Dr. O,” Olatinwo grew up the youngest of four children, in a family that is part of the Yoruba tribe of Nigeria. He became a fellow of the West African College of Surgeons at Lagos University Teaching Hospital in his home country before moving to England and, eventually, the United States to continue his studies. He has an international fellowship as a British Council Scholar at the University of Sheffield. While there, he was published in the *International Journal of Gynecology*.

After his time in England, Dr. Olatinwo underwent residency training at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, joining his wife, also a practicing doctor. After residency, he became an attending faculty and research fellow in reproductive studies at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He credits his time spent teaching with enabling him “to explain things clearly to my patients and to give them a good understanding of the problem.” He likes working with OB/GYN patients. “Most of my patients are pregnant,” he said. “That makes it a joyful experience because most people are happy with the results.” The clinic offers 3D and 4D ultrasound. Dr. O says “people come from all over just to use the ultrasound.”

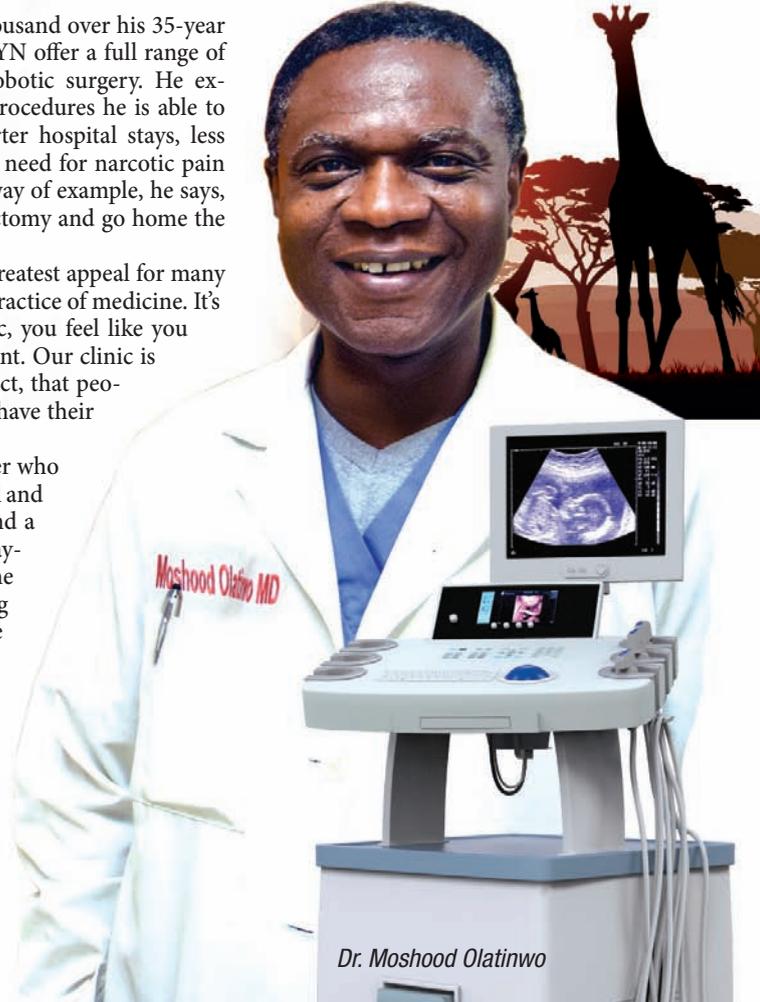
In addition to delivering 25 to 30 babies per

month – he has delivered several thousand over his 35-year practice – Dr. O and Summit OB/GYN offer a full range of gynecological services, including robotic surgery. He explains that the minimally invasive procedures he is able to perform provide patients with shorter hospital stays, less blood loss, fewer complications, less need for narcotic pain medication and faster recovery. By way of example, he says, “Women can have complete hysterectomy and go home the same day.”

But Dr. O says that one of the greatest appeal for many of his patients goes beyond just the practice of medicine. It’s that “when you come into our clinic, you feel like you belong. We have a family environment. Our clinic is almost like home.” So much so, in fact, that people come from all over the world to have their babies delivered by Dr. O.

While Dr. O, who has a daughter who just graduated from Louisiana School and is preparing to head off to college and a son who recently graduated from Baylor University, has grown fond of the Natchitoches area. He enjoys riding his bicycle downtown, around Cane River and in his neighborhood. Like all of us, though, he also has fond memories of home and sometimes misses things like the foods he grew up with -- he names pounded yams, a dish with a consistency like mashed potatoes, as his favorite – so he goes back every two years to visit family and friends and to give back to the community that gave him his start.

by Laura Prissy Scott  
and Scott Rutherford



Dr. Moshood Olatinwo