

2013-2023 High Point Clinic Celebrates 10 YEARS



We cannot talk about High Point Clinic without mentioning its founder, Dr. Vance C. Shaw. Dr. Shaw is the doctor who can be seen very frequently at the clinic in a variety of roles from direct-patient visits, to spreading gravel with his dump truck, to leveling areas outside with his tractor or anywhere in between. He is the guy who often looks the part of various roles. You might find him as your physician, Santa Claus, Dumbledore from Harry Potter, or your basic handyman.

Dr. Shaw came to the beautiful mountains of Northeast TN over thirty years ago to attend medical school at ETSU following his undergraduate work at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN. Before we talk about that, let's look back at his history which brought him from his birth in 1956 on December 19th, way out west in Spokane, WA, to being here today. At an early age, he moved from Spokane with his family to Huntsville, AL, where his father worked as an engineer for NASA. Dr. Shaw, aka Vance, became interested in music early on. He became an extremely talented guitar player and was involved in several garage bands, performing in many different venues. He became very proficient as a flautist while attending high school. It was difficult to differentiate him from the girls sitting around him in the first few chairs due to his waist-length hair. He became a classical guitar instructor for several years. Following high school, he moved to Nashville, TN, where among other things, he worked in the music business as a recording engineer for the once famous country music star, Eddie Rabbit. (*I Love the Rainy Nights*) Eventually, tired of the music scene, he realized it was time to delve into his second love which was medicine. Although told he was too old to go to medical school, Vanderbilt University accepted him as a student. Following his four years of undergraduate work, he then was accepted into the Family Practice Program of ETSU which is what brought him to the Johnson City area.

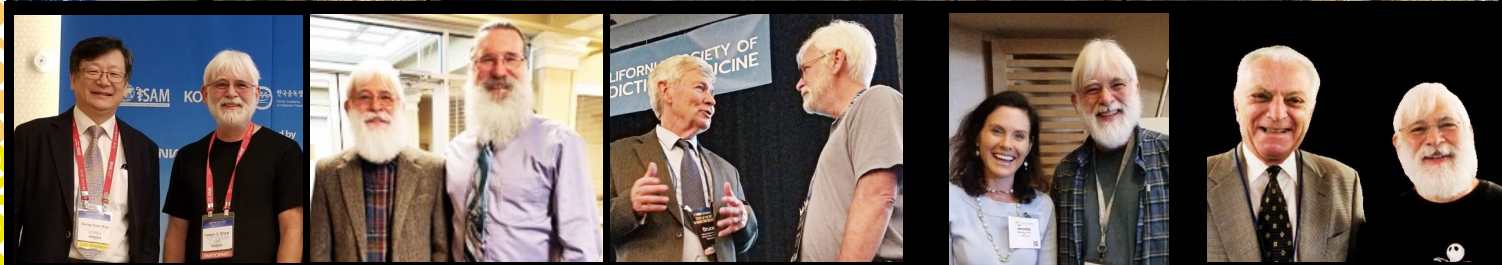
After earning his doctorate in Family Practice, Dr. Shaw began working as an Emergency Room physician. He enjoyed the fast-paced environment where he was able to put his academia and evidence-based practices into place. He was asked to be the Medical Director for the Carter County Emergency and Rescue Squad earning him the title of the longest running medical director for rescue squads in the state of TN. He recently received the Medical Director of the Year award through the Tennessee Ambulance Service Association in 2022. Dr. Shaw has always been known for his courage to support best medical practices by being willing to stand out on the limbs where very few will venture. During his time working in the ER setting, he became very familiar with the ever-increasing problem within the addiction community and recognized the extremely limited resources available for those seeking treatment.

Around 2005, the drug known primarily as Suboxone came onto the scene for the treatment of those who were addicted to opiates. It was found to be a miracle drug of sorts to those seeking help from their destructive, opiate addicted cycles. Dr. Shaw was contacted by a couple of area physicians who were seeing what a tremendous help this medicine was to patients who were taking it. So, after researching the medicine and talking to patients who had reported favorable results, he became certified to prescribe this medicine, also known as buprenorphine. This was the beginning of his progression of practicing medicine away from the emergency room and into full-time treatment of addiction.

Dr. Shaw became board certified in Addiction Medicine in 2010 and is recognized as a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He is also a member of the International Society of Addiction Medicine. Because of his time spent teaching students, he was awarded the prestigious Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award in 2017 through the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Delta Chapter of ETSU. Because of Dr. Shaw's desire to help the opiate-addicted community, he founded Evidence Based Addiction Medicine (EBAM) dba High Point Clinic (HPC) to support opiate addicts, with special attention to the pregnant population; thereby giving them a unique support environment that, at that time, was extremely rare in its delivery. This was after witnessing many other MAT clinics opening in the Tri Cities area around 2010 which appeared to be born from a get-rich-quick mentality. In 2012, Dr. Shaw purchased the building which is located on 205 High Point Drive in Johnson City, TN, to provide a non-profit medication assisted treatment clinic. The official date it opened to patients was January 1, 2013. Dr. Shaw is the clinic's Medical Director and has been and remains an extremely active physician within the patient clinical visits. He continues to express his passion through teaching and education from his own wealth of knowledge gained from evidence-based best practices and continued education. He is a strong advocate for patient's rights, spending a substantial portion of his time in attempts to reverse the stigma which remains tightly entrenched with addiction.

So, now you know...High Point Clinic was born out of a desire to help those in need and continues to be a service point to those wishing to seek help from the ravages of the disease of addiction. We, who work here at High Point Clinic, are proud to be a part of this organization and we are excited to be celebrating our 10th year and our founder, Dr Vance Shaw.

Thank you, Dr. Shaw for your time, service, dedication & compassion! Happy Birthday!!



Dr. Vance Shaw with Kim Sung-Gon
Conference Coordinator,
International
Society of Addiction
Medicine—South Korea

Dr. Vance Shaw with Dr. Reid Blackwelder
Department of
Family Medicine
ETSU

Dr. Vance Shaw with Bruce Alexander
Rat Study

Dr. Vance Shaw with Hendree Jones
The Mother Study

Dr. Vance Shaw with Vincent Felitti
ACE Study

A Week of Celebration for the Founder of HPC!!



We are celebrating "Founders Week" Dec 19-23. Most people don't realize how blessed we are to have a doctor like Dr. Shaw. He has been a board-certified addictionologist for over 10 years! He received the prestigious Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award. He was one of the core founding faculty for the Addiction Medicine Fellowship at East TN State University, and helped establish the guidelines for Office Based Opiate Treatment clinics in TN. He presented the findings of his research on the correlation of adverse childhood experience scores with prescribing of benzodiazepines in MAT clinics at the ISAM conference in India. He understands the disease of addiction and makes sure that everything we do is evidence based. Not only is he a very well-educated care provider, he is one of the most genuine, generous persons practicing. His birthday is on Tues, Dec 19, and we will use the week to celebrate. There will be a graffiti table in the lobby where you can write, draw, or otherwise express your gratitude to Dr. Shaw and his untiring devotion to HPC and the care of all of us—patients and staff. Plan on letting him know how he and this clinic have helped you.

