MORE THAN medicine

By Waechter Consulting Group



Gastroenterology Clinic of San Antonio, P.A.

Meet Dr. Allison Harrington Sirakos

This month we're highlighting Dr. Allison Sirakos and are thrilled to welcome her as a new Waechter Consulting Group client and to learn about her and her practice. Thanks for allowing us to feature you!

Let's help readers get to know you. First of all, **what is the name of your practice and what do you specialize in?**

The name of my practice is Gastroenterology Clinic of San Antonio and we are an independently owned and operated practice that has been serving the community for more than 50 years. I am one of eight physician owners and we specialize in gastroenterology and related illnesses. Our mission is to provide leading edge subspecialty care to patients with disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas and gallbladder with compassion and sensitivity in a friendly, family oriented environment. Our vision is to provide the best quality of healthcare for our patients and their loved ones. Our group is also nationally recognized for awards, education and research.

Kudos on remaining independent in the midst of all of the practice buy-outs. And I love that you're the only female in the group!

What inspired you to specialize in gastroenterology?

I love that I can see patients in the clinic as well as do their procedures. It is incredibly rewarding being able to make real time diagnoses for patients on the day of their colonoscopy or endoscopy and then I get to develop and follow them through their treatment plan.

Are there areas of subspecialty that you enjoy? What drives your passion?

I prefer treating patients with disorders of the gut brain interaction. Classically people feel like these disorders are " in their head", but I have

made it my goal to help patients understand these are true disorders that need treatment like any other disease state. I studied psychology during undergrad and find it fascinating how much our mental health can manifest as GI symptoms. I am also on a mission to improve rates of colon cancer screening. Everyone deserves to be screened for colon cancer especially now with rates of colon cancer increasing in people younger than 50. Colonoscopies can prevent colon cancer and save lives!

Having a psychological lens on the patient is a definite advantage! **How do you think that makes you and your practice unique?**

Using my background with psychology I try to treat patients as more than just their symptoms. Treating them requires looking at them as a whole and developing a global treatment plan. I enjoy spending time getting to know them individually. I am able to do that as I see all my patients on my own. I will also never stop advocating for my patients!

That is so refreshing to hear, particularly when appointments are getting shorter and time with the physician can be scarce.

What is one of the most rewarding things you've experienced in your practice so far?

Anytime I can get a patient a diagnosis and improve their quality of life I consider that a win. It is always bittersweet when a patient can be discharged from my clinic but I love telling them, "I've really enjoyed working with you but I hope you never need to see me again (although they are always welcome back if needed)."

Now, let's get a little personal, **what are some hobbies that bring you joy or help you unwind?**

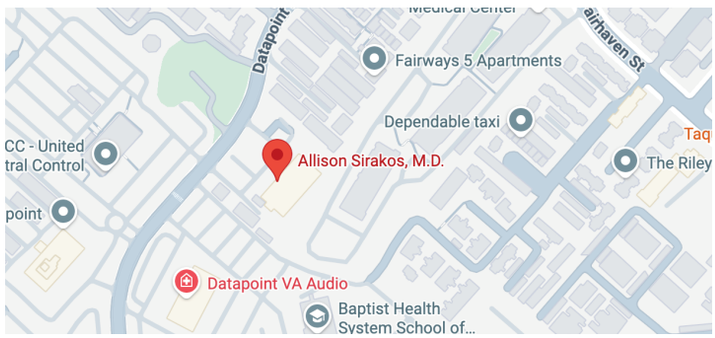
I enjoy reading and taking my dog to the dog park. I really enjoy walking and getting out in nature.

Same! And I'm sure you're looking forward to cooler fall weather as much as I am. Lastly, what's one thing most people might not know about you?

I'm from Oklahoma but I went to the University of Texas at Austin- Hook 'Em Horns!

Then I'm sure you were pumped about the recent football game against Ohio State, I hear it was an incredible comeback!

Thank you for taking the time to let us get to know you and your practice. We look forward to working with you so that more patients can connect with you for the level of gastroenterology care they deserve!



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