

Profile

When it comes to vascular surgery, Northwest Vascular and Vein Specialists rely on expertise and compassion.

WORDS BY REBECCA HOLLAND //

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN SUBAR

A PASSION FOR VASCULAR SURGERY

One might find it hard to believe that a girl who loved rebuilding car engines would grow up to be a vascular surgeon, but that's exactly what happened to Dr. Susanne Woloson. Dr. Woloson grew up in California raised by her high school educated parents. She had an affinity for fixing things and frequently helped her father in the yard with projects. When she was in college, she would spend time after class tinkering on cars at a local shop, in addition to working in a grocery store to save for her education.

Fast-forward several years, and the girl who enjoyed working on cars was now in medical school earning her M.D. and simultaneously a Ph.D in Molecular Biology. There were no physicians in the family to mentor her, but Woloson was immediately drawn to a surgical career because it fulfilled her need to "fix things." She fell in love with vascular surgery in her internship year, primarily because of the gratification it provided. "If there is a blockage, I can go around it. I've traded working with oil for working with blood," Dr. Woloson jokes.

Dr. Woloson earned her combined M.D. and Ph.D from Chicago Medical School, then trained in general surgery at the University of Chicago from 1993-1998, and completed fellowship training in vascular surgery at Loyola University from 1998-2000. She has worked in private practice since then, and formed Northwest Vascular and Vein Specialists in 2014, focusing specifically on venous disease. She is also a registered physician in vascular interpretation (RPVI), which means that she is accredited to interpret vascular ultrasounds.

Susanne K. Woloson, M.D., Ph.D, RPVI, is a female board-certified vascular surgeon. With only 2 percent of vascular

surgeons being women, she is unique among Vascular Surgeons around the country. Because most people with vein problems are women, she is more relatable to her patients, although she has a substantial male clientele as well.

Many physicians are treating vein problems these days, however, most of these doctors are not board-certified vascular surgeons. Instead, they have trained in other aspects of medicine and take online tests to become "certified" in veins. When compared to the seven years of vascular training after medical school that Woloson endured, working specifically with arteries and veins, it is clear her expertise far exceeds the online vein-certified treating physicians.

"There is a huge difference between someone specifically trained in vascular surgery, and someone who gets certified online," Woloson says. "Patients should see a board-certified vascular surgeon so they can be confident that they are getting the best possible care and ensured the best outcomes."

Dr. Woloson founded Northwest Vascular and Vein Specialists because she always had a passion for treating venous disease. She wanted to dedicate the second half of her career to focusing on these patients, using the latest and safest technology while providing excellent outcomes with state of the art equipment. Woloson also wanted to have a practice where both men and women felt comfortable speaking about their vein issues.

Dr. Woloson's office is very inviting with tasteful décor to make her patients feel at ease. Her office manager, Dena Gutierrez, has been with her for the last 15 years and is very knowledgeable regarding vein disorders. Gutierrez is available to answer questions that patients may have at any point in their care. She has partnered with her ultrasound technician, Ken Langworthy, for the last 13 years who is certified as a registered vascular technologist. Together, they train other physicians from around the country to perform safe venous procedures and accurate ultrasounds. To date, the team has performed more than 9,000 vein procedures in Dr. Woloson's office.

Dr. Woloson prides herself on being approachable to her patients. She reads ultrasounds daily and calls her patients personally with their results on the evening of their exam. Dr. Woloson does all of the patient billing in her office and has a dedicated employee to deal directly with insurance companies for pre-certification or denial issues. "We accept all major insurances, we answer all of your questions, and we get you in for appointments quickly, not three months down the road," Woloson says. "We want to be there for you, and want you to know that I am personally working with you to give you the confidence to show your legs again, resolving your symptoms using treatments that make you feel comfortable."

Dr. Susanne Woloson of Northwest Vascular and Vein Specialists is located at 1614 W. Central Road, Suite 100, in Arlington Heights, IL 60015 847-577-5814.