

Richard E. D'Alli, MD, MEd, ScM

Rick D'Alli is Associate Professor Emeritus, College of Medicine, University of Florida. From 2015-2022 he served as Associate Division Chief for Mental Health services, UF Health Division of General Pediatrics, where he recruited, retained, and directed a group of physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and psychotherapists to provide psychiatric and psychological care for children, adolescents, and their families. His work in the Department of Psychiatry included supervision of trainees treating young patients with autism, membership on the inaugural steering committee of the UF Health Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment, and patient care in UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. He graduated from the University of Arizona College of Medicine and completed residency training in general psychiatry and fellowship training in child psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center.

Medicine was a mid-career change for Dr. D'Alli. After graduating from the University of Florida with a BS in physics (1967) and MEd (1971), he taught physics and coached at a suburban Atlanta public high school. He returned to graduate school at Brown University for a MS in planetary geology (1977), when he participated in NASA's 1976 Viking Mars Lander Imaging team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. Following work at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C, assisting with archiving and editing lunar photogeological maps, he was recruited in 1978 by NASA to direct summer short courses for western university faculty in planetary geology at Arizona State University. A 1979 serendipitous guest appearance on the Phoenix NBC TV affiliate, KPNX, prompted part time work as an on-air science reporter. Two years later he was hired by Arizona PBS (KAET 8) as an on-air science editor and back-up anchor. On February 23, 1983, he anchored the first, live, prime time network television broadcast of open-heart surgery, originating from a Phoenix hospital and carried internationally via satellite. This and similar experiences in science and medical reporting persuaded him to become a physician and educator. He and his wife, Arlene, a retired medical social worker, have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.