physician's profile

Will Kirby, D.O.

Born:
Florence, Italy, 1973

Medical degree:
Nova Southeastern University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Internship:
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Miami Beach, Fla.

Residency, dermatology:
Western University/Pacific Hospital of Long
Beach, Calif., chief resident

Hobbies:
Surfing, yoga, basketball

Family:
Flancée Erin Brodie and their 17-month-old
son, William Cassius "Cash" Kirby

In His Own Words:

What is the best professional advice you ever received?
Dr. Kirby: "Enthusiasm and ethics are the two most important
aspects in the creation of a successful and rewarding
career in dermatology—or any profession, for that matter."

Will Kirby, D.O., and his fiancée, Erin Brodie, with their son, William Cassius "Cash" Kirby, 17 months old. (Photo: Will Kirby, D.O.)

Star power

Will Kirby, D.O., enjoys Hollywood limelight, but career, family take center stage

By Lisette Hilton
Staff Correspondent

Dermatologist Will Kirby, D.O., balances what he calls a "cheesy" life in entertainment with a more serious and passionate existence as a doctor.

At age 38, Dr. Kirby practices in Beverly Hills, Calif.; holds academic posts at two universities; publishes scientific articles; lectures at dermatology meetings; is medical director and co-founder of a network of Dr. Tatoff laser tattoo removal clinics; and is a national spokesman for Neutrogena Dermalogics.

Then there's his celebrity side. His claim to reality television fame is winning CBS's "Big Brother" in 2001. He has been a correspondent for "Extra," and he has appeared on "Regis & Kelly" and has even been a guest star on the daytime soap opera "The Young and the Restless." Most recently, Dr. Kirby has been featured on "Dr. 90210," "The Talk," "The Doctors," "LA Ink," "Chelsea Lately" and "The Real Housewives of Orange County."

He's engaged to Erin Brodie, who has the distinction of having won the biggest monetary prize in reality television as the $2 million winner of NBC's "For Love or Money." Ms. Brodie's father is former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers and professional golfer John Brodie.

"We don't yet have a definitive date for our wedding and, while we have a number of offers to get married on TV, this may be one of those events that we choose to keep private," he says.

The big break

Dr. Kirby had been accepted into a radiation oncology residency program and was just finishing his internship when CBS contacted him about being on "Big Brother." He opted out of his radiation oncology residency spot one day before filming began.

In the cutthroat game show, Dr. Kirby persevered and won the $500,000 prize, as well as the opportunity to do a lot more work in show business. He wanted to continue his academic pursuits, however, so he returned to residency training. This time, it was in dermatology.

Dermatology, he says, is "one of the few fields that is both technical and cerebral. I love working with my hands and with my brain, and dermatology is one of the only medical fields that allows the freedom to do that."

Fame fuels career

Dr. Kirby says the entertainment jobs have boosted his medical career by helping to open doors for academic opportunities.

The recognition he has gained by being a celebrity has resulted in his lecturing and publishing in dermatology, as well, he says.

He recently wrote the tattoo chapter in the newest edition of Dr. Mitchel Goldman's "Cutaneous and Cosmetic Laser Surgery," slated for release at the 2012 American Academy of Dermatology meeting.

Dr. Kirby's private practice focuses on laser medicines. His professional career is focused on Dr. Tatoff, which has five facilities in California and Texas, is opening more clinics, and has plans to go public in early 2012.

He says he enjoys the celebrity side of his life, but he doesn't depend on it. Neither does his wife-to-be.

"I'd like to think that we're pretty well-grounded," he says. "Putting an emphasis on our careers and our family really keeps our priorities in order. For us, television has just been an interesting hobby.

"When I'm older, I'll definitely look back on my entertainment career fondly," he says. "But my true passion is being a dermatologist."