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I am privileged and honored to be a physician and orthopedic surgeon. I feel it is one of the most important jobs in the world and I treat it as such. I have been in practice for 20 years and perform arthroscopic and total joint replacement on the hip, knee and shoulder. When I perform surgery on a patient, his or her life is in my hands and I treat that responsibility very seriously. I review each case beforehand, plan the procedure, make sure I have the appropriate equipment and staffing and get a good night's sleep before the surgery. Most importantly, I plan for the unexpected and make sure I have what I need in unexpected circumstances.

Patients can expect to be treated like a family member in my practice and will receive the utmost respect and professionalism from myself and from my staff. I will do my absolute best to help them get back to their lives, including returning to work, being able to walk or run again, or being

able to carry their child or grandchild.

While I have published many articles, won awards and been selected to healthcare leadership positions, my proudest accomplishments are being able to help patients return to their daily routines. Seeing them transform from being depressed because of pain to being happy and pain free, or being able to walk again after being in a wheelchair, is very special to me. I truly love being a doctor. I could not see myself doing anything else.

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• **DR. RICHARD M. SELDES is a Bone & Joint Surgery Select honoree for being one of New Jersey's top surgeons for shoulder, hip and knee arthroscopic surgery.**