

1. Why did you choose medicine?

I always had an interest in medicine but went to school for engineering with an open mind. I loved a lot of aspects of engineering, but nothing beat my experiences shadowing surgeons in the hospital. There is something special about helping a patient and family through a difficult medical problem that no other job can offer.

2. Why did you choose surgery?

Ever since I was a little kid, I loved taking things apart, figure out how they worked, and fixing things. Pair this with my enjoyment with problem solving general surgery was a clear choice. It is extremely rewarding to see a patient come in with an urgent surgical problem and seeing them later walking into the office.

3. What lessons have you learned during your journey?

Quite literally everything. Surgical training at an academic center is long but has the opportunity to grow in a lot of ways. I learned how to take care of critically ill patients, how to operate, became efficient in computer programmer, build a family, and balance work, family, and health.

4. What words of wisdom do you want to leave for the residents?

- Stay an active learner regardless of your role. There is always something you can learn even if you are not the one operating.
- Be curious. Ask questions.
- Figure out what you love to do and go for it. The ultimate goal in life is to be happy and getting stuck in a field you do not enjoy will make this extremity difficult.
- Make sure to balance work, family, and health. It is an active process but extremely important.