

# Chief Resident Legacy: Shreyus Kulkarni, MD

Graduation Year: 2021



## 1. Why did you choose medicine? Events or people who influenced your decision?

I decided to become a doctor when I was in the fourth grade. My class took a field trip to see a local play about Ben Carson. I loved it so much that I decided I wanted to be a neurosurgeon, too. Of course, I had no idea what that really meant or what would be involved, but I knew that I would be a doctor. My parents were supportive but never pressured me. I never really gave anything else much thought.

## 2. Why did you choose Surgery? Events or people who influenced your decision?

When I was a kid, I initially wanted to be a neurosurgeon. Then, a few sports injuries made me want to be an orthopedic surgeon. By the time I got to medical school, I knew I wanted to be a surgeon but was otherwise undecided. I honestly cannot remember why I never considered any surgical subspecialties. In my second year, I decided that I was going into general surgery. I loved the breadth, the anatomy, the pathology, the history, and the gravitas. My mentors, Bill Cioffi and David Harrington, pushed and guided me. Most importantly, they served as great role models and opened my eyes to who I could become.

## 3. What have been the major lessons learned during your journey?

I have learned to slow myself down and employ a deliberate thought process when faced with a difficult case. I make more mistakes when rushing or when stressed. Putting in the extra time up front saves me time in the long run by reducing decisional and technical errors. In contrast, I have learned to trust my gut when making big life decisions. I can usually recognize the right thing to do when I stop overthinking it. And finally, I have learned to respect the training

process. It takes a long time to become a surgeon and even longer to become a good one.

#### **4. What words of wisdom do you want to leave for the residents who follow you?**

I will share some of the best advice I have received from others. They are all quoted to the best of my memory.

- “The keys to success are curiosity and hard work. It really is just that simple.”
  - David Harrington
  
- “The best chiefs are those that are unfailingly true to themselves.”
  - Matthew Rosengart, when I asked what makes for a great chief resident as I was coming out of the lab
  
- “Just keep showing up to work every day, and eventually they let you graduate.”
  - a visiting resident named Patrick who must have thought I needed a little reassurance one day when I was a second-year resident