



# DR. AMEEN BASHA

U OF C • CARDIAC SURGERY

## *What attracted you to medicine?*

When I was an undergraduate student, I worked in a high-altitude physiology research laboratory. I really enjoyed learning about how human bodies function in extreme environments. Medicine was a way for me to continue to work with human physiology and help very sick patients get better.

## *What attracted you to your specialty?*

I realized early as a medical student that I liked handling the big and scary problems in medicine, definitely solve them and see them through to the end. For me, cardiac surgeons were resilient, capable and talented. Good mentorship helped me realize that maybe I might be able to do this as well.

## *What do you find the most rewarding in your residency training?*

In cardiac surgery, you get to work with patients who are often in a dire condition. You slowly build a skill set that very few doctors have and in those late-night critical moments, it is only you that can intervene. The best reward is returning patients to their loved ones, a person who without you, wouldn't be here.

## *What do you find the most challenging in your residency training?*

Cardiac surgery remains one of the most physically and emotionally demanding specialties in medicine. The operations are challenging, the patients are complex and the decisions are difficult to make. But for me, the good days outnumber the bad days and that's all that really matters.

## *What energizes you outside of residency?*

It is said that in heart surgery, the days are long, but the years are short. So in my limited spare time, I enjoy dinners with friends, working out, riding my motorcycle, hiking in Kananaskis and skiing the Canadian Rockies.