



DR. MEGAN MACGILLIVRAY

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• DERMATOLOGY

What attracted you to medicine?

I wanted to have a career that would be personally and academically rewarding. I had always enjoyed my science-related courses in high school and university, so medicine seemed like a good fit. In retrospect, I definitely did not understand the complexities of the system and training process I was entering. However, it has worked out well and I feel very privileged to be in this field.

What attracted you to your specialty?

Once I discovered dermatology, I truly loved everything about it! I'm biased, but I can't think of another specialty that offers more. Features of our specialty that stand out: we treat patients of all ages (newborn to elderly), there are multiple procedures (biopsies, skin surgeries, etc.), and constant application of basic science to clinical presentation. Job opportunities are also still very good.

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

The dermatology community is small but also collegial and welcoming. I know my mentors truly want me to become a good dermatologist and I feel supported. As I progress through my training, it has also been rewarding to follow some patients over time and see how their condition has changed with treatment.

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

There is a large component of reading and studying. It can be difficult to keep up with readings when we are busy in clinic, on call, doing research, preparing presentations, etc

What energizes you outside of residency?

For the most part, I am energized by my wonderful fiancé, Dylan. He is also a resident physician and we provide a lot of support to each other. We both grew up in families that had nightly, sit down dinners and this is something we continue to do whenever possible. It gives us a sense of normalcy in our lives, as well as the opportunity to hear about each other's experiences that day. I also go on quite a few evening walks (or bike rides in the summer). I can often be found outside on a winter's evening with my balaclava, headlamp and big winter boots walking along the river valley trails. I really do love Edmonton's river valley.